NEW SALEM STATE PARK DRAWER 12 NEW SALEM

71-2019 DVS 05-02

Illinois

New Salem

New Salem State Park

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71 2009.085.05202

RELIVE AMERICAN HISTORY

follow the

LINCOLN HERITAGE CANOE TRAIL



SANGAMON RIVER

May 29,30,31, 1965

RELIVE AMERICAN HISTORY

follow the

LINCOLN HERITAGE CANOE TRAIL



SANGAMON RIVER

May 29,30,31, 1965

Trip Details

Our purpose in establishing the Lincoln Heritage Canoe Trail is simple -- to preserve the "original" Lincoln canoe trail between Decatur and New Salem.

Our program is designed to meet your needs. Canoe all or part of the trail. You are on your own -- bring your own canoe, camp gear, and food.

Campsites will be available

Decatur area: Lincoln Trail Homestead State Park
Springfield area: Carpenter's Park
New Salem area: New Wilderness Canoe Base
New Salem State Park

Schedule

May 28 - Overnight camp at Lincoln Trail Homestead Park

May 29 - Canoe from Lincoln Trail Homestead Park to Springfield. Camp overnight at Springfield.

May 30 - Canoe from Springfield to Salisbury Bridge campsite. Lunch at Sangamo Town.

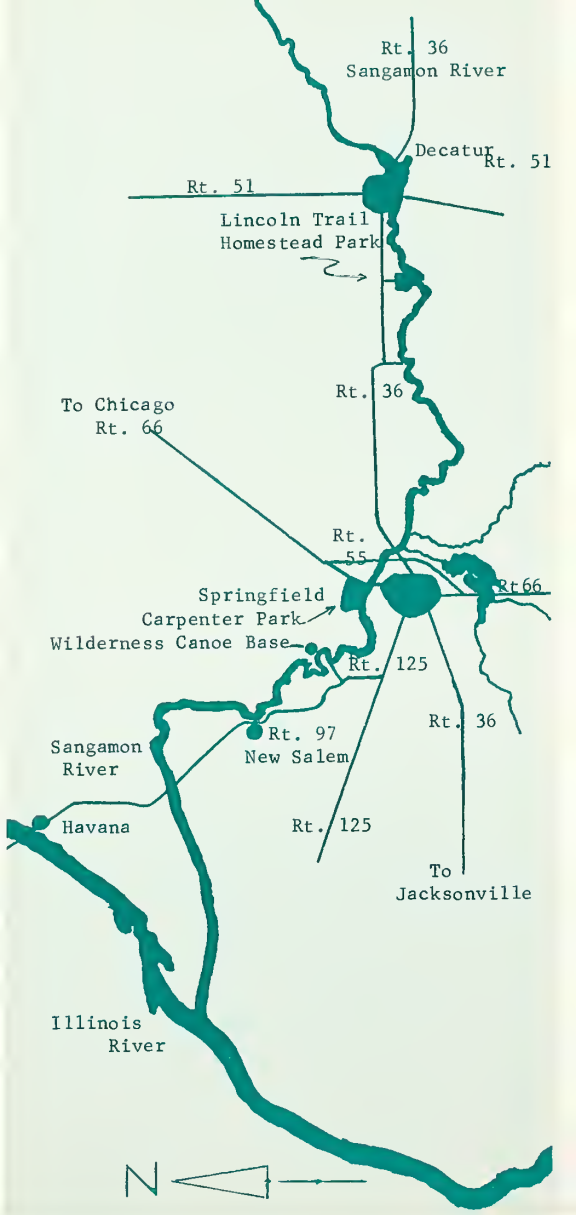
May 31 - Canoe from Salisbury Bridge to New Salem (half day paddle).

Transportation facilities will be available to shuttle cars.

Registration Fee: - $1.00 per canoe

Canoe Rental A limited number of rental canoes are available through the Chicago Land Canoe Base. Advance notice is required.

Note Scout units are reminded to comply with B.S.A. regulations regarding canoeing and traveling.


Rt. 36
Sangamon River
Decatur
Rt. 51
Rt. 51
Lincoln Trail
Homestead Park
Rt. 36
To Chicago
Rt. 66
Rt.
55
Springfield
Carpenter Park
Wilderness Canoe Base
Rt 66
Rt. 125
Rt. 36
Sangamon
River
Rt. 97
New Salem
Havana
Rt. 125
To
Jacksonville
Illinois
River
N

DECATUR CABIN SITE

In 1830, just before the terrible Winter of the Deep Snow, Thomas Lincoln built a log cabin above the Sangamon River southwest of Decatur, and thirteen members of the family lived in that one-room structure. In late winter, Denton Offut, a Springfield businessman, hired Abraham Lincoln, his cousin, John Hanks, and step-brother John Johnston, to pilot a loaded flatboat to New Orleans as soon as the snow went off. In March, they paddled a cottonwood dugout canoe on the flooding Sangamon to Riverton, then walked seven miles to Springfield.

SPRINGFIELD

Begun in 1821, Springfield first saw Abraham Lincoln when he and his kin trudged across the muddy prairie to seek their employer, Offut, in March, 1831. It knew him better when he lived at New Salem, then came to Springfield as a lawyer, later a politician. As a member of the legislature, he worked to bring the capital to Springfield, where he lived from 1837 to 1861. His famous Farewell Address was composed and uttered here.

CUT HERE

SANGAMO TOWN

In 1824 this promising settlement was built on a high bluff above the Sangamon River seven miles northwest of Springfield. Because the river proved not to be navigable, the town languished and had disappeared little more than ten years later. Near a sawmill in the bottomlands, Lincoln in 1831 spent a month building a big flatboat. In April, loaded with corn and hogs, it set off hopefully for New Orleans, then struck fast downstream on the milldam below New Salem hill.

NEW SALEM

New Salem was begun in 1829 after the Rutledge-Cameron mill was built on the river bank, and was a growing community when Lincoln saw it. Impressed, he promised to come back after he had freed the stranded boat and the trip was over. In New Salem he was a store-keeper, surveyor, postmaster, and was elected to the legislature. He studied with Mentor Graham, schoolmaster, learned law, then departed to Springfield. In a few years, New Salem was gone. Most of its people moved to Petersburg two miles north.

Please register now by completing this blank and mailing to:

Jack Johnson
12 N. Cotton Hill
Springfield, Ill. 62707

COUNT US IN! Here is our registration:

Arrival time:

Lincoln Trail Homestead State Park

Friday 5-28-65 PM_____
Saturday 5-29-65 AM_____

Springfield - Carpenter's Park

Saturday 5-29-65 PM_____
Sunday 5-30-65 AM_____

Number in party _____

Number of Canoes _____

Remarks:

Name_____

Address _____

THIS TRIP IS OPEN TO ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN CANOEING AND IN THEIR AMERICAN HERITAGE



SANGAMON RIVER

AREAS TO VISIT WHILE IN LINCOLNLAND

Springfield Area

Lincoln's Home
Old State Capitol Bldg.
Lincoln Tomb and Monument
Abraham Lincoln Memorial Garden
Vachel Lindsay Home
Illinois State Capitol Complex
Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon
Illinois State Museum

Decatur Area

Lincoln Square
Log Cabin Court House
Lincoln Trail Homestead
State Park, starting point for Lincoln Heritage Canoe Trail.

New Salem State Park and Petersburg

U. S. Post Office
Hill Carding Machine
Rutledge Tavern
Rutledge-Carmon Grist and Saw Mill
Kelse Hollow
The Hilltop
Abraham Lincoln Book Shop
New Salem Lodge
Ann Rutledge Court House
Petersburg Court House
Wagon Wheel
Talisman Stearnwheeler

Further details can be obtained through area representatives.

North — Ralph Freese
Chicago Land Canoe Base
4019 N. Narragansett
Chicago, Illinois
312-SP7-1489

Central — Jack Johnson, Chairman
12 N. Cotton Hill
Springfield, Illinois
217-529-4845

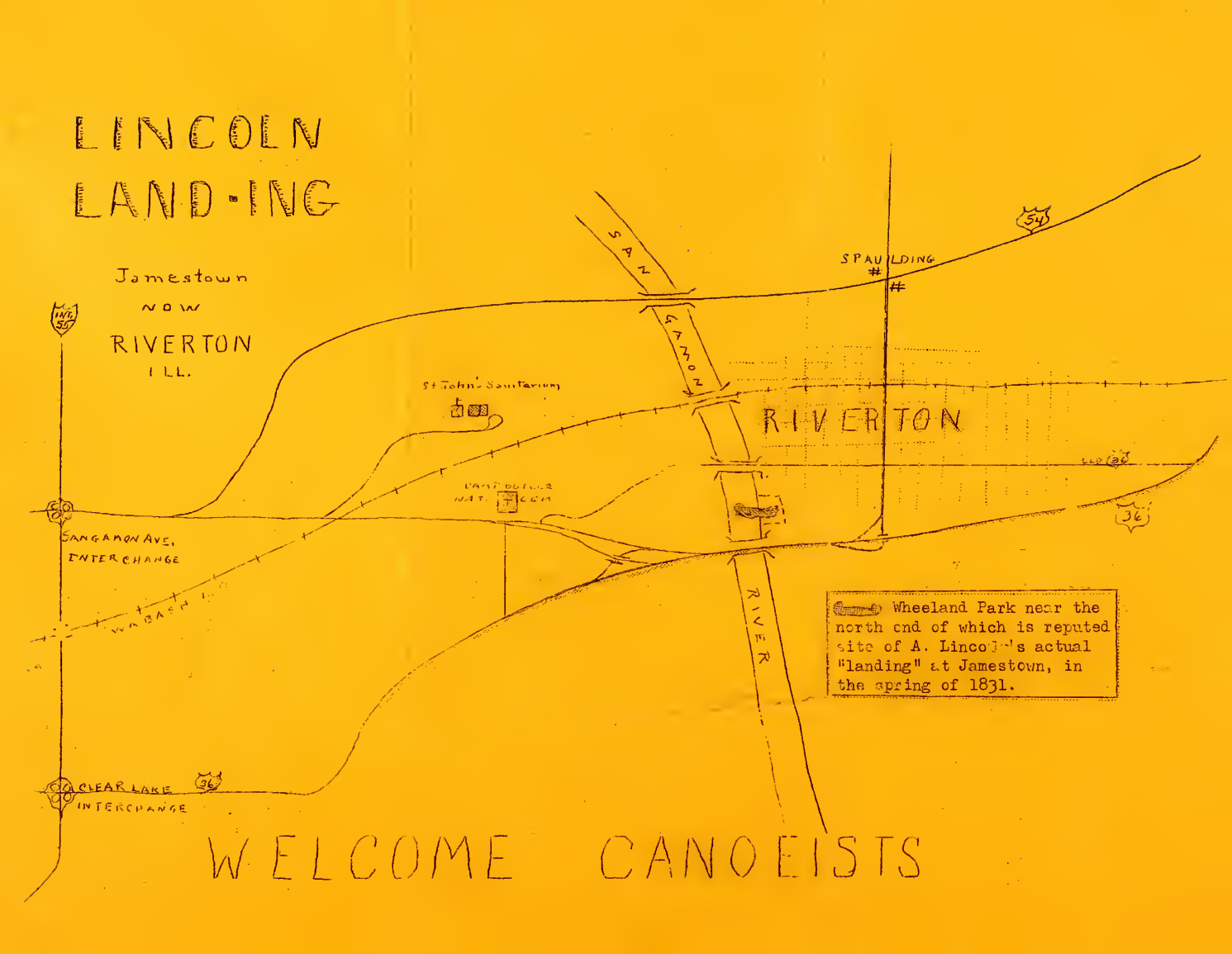
South — Dan Malkovich, Editor
Outdoor Illinois Magazine
111 East Church Street
Benton, Illinois
618-438-3211

Sponsored by

SANGAMON VALLEY CHAPTER

IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE




LINCOLN
LAND-ING
Jamestown
NOW
RIVERTON
ILL.
ILL. 54
SPAULDING
SPAN
GAMON
St John's Sanitarium
RIVERTON
ILL. 29
ILL. 36
SANGAMON AVE.
INTERCHANGE
WABASH R.R.
RIVER
CLEAR LAKE
INTERCHANGE
36
Wheeland Park near the north end of which is reputed site of A. Lincoln's actual "landing" at Jamestown, in the spring of 1831.
WELCOME CANOEISTS

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, age 22, in the spring of 1831, with two companions, John Hanks and John Johnston, embarked in a cottonwood, dug-out canoe at the Thomas Lincoln homestead on the Sangamon river west of Decatur, and came down river to Jamestown, now Riverton, where they left the canoe and walked to Springfield.

This trip was in anticipation of taking a flatboat load of Illinois products to New Orleans, under contract with Denton Offutt. The boat not being ready, Lincoln located near Spring Creek, and built a large flatboat, which was then loaded, and was later stranded temporarily on the mill-dam at Petersburg.

THE VILLAGE OF RIVERTON
AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS
WELCOME YOU TO THE

L I N C O L N L A N D I N G S I T E
located near the north end of
this, Wheeland Park.

SAFE DRINKING WATER from deep wells is offered you and other canoeists and boaters using the Lincoln Heritage Canoe Trail. A hydrant at the pool area will supply all your needs for drinking water. In another year we hope to have the newly graded park grassed heavily enough to be enjoyed for over-night camping and for more comfortable meal-time rest stops.

SANITARY FACILITIES will be improved, we anticipate, by that time.

Louis Marada, Mayor of Riverton
Owen Krueger, Ray Roseberry, and
Secondo Cardoni, Park Committee.

Jas.Rusciolelli,Jr., Pres. J.C.'s
Lester Bedinger, Pres., Lions Club
Mrs. Edw, Marada, Pres., Jayceettes
Mrs.Evelyn Sartain, Pres., Womans Club
Carroll Davis, Boy Scoutmaster, Trp 46.
Eugene Stahr, Cub Scout Leader
Mike Vespa, Pres., Volunteer Fire Dept.
Jack Watson, Pres., Athletic Club
Mrs. W.H.(Bud) Williamson, Pres.,
Community Club

RIVERTON BOASTS—

Most excellent highways to Springfield, with many first-class entries to the city, as our map indicates;

Four active churches: Roman Catholic, Methodist, Christian, Lutheran, --in the order of their being founded;

Beautiful, scenic homesites, due to the rolling terrain on which the village is built;

An extraordinarily good volunteer fire department and equipment;

Low tax rates and utility rates; the village owning its utilities including water, sewer, gas and electricity;

New construction in recent years—135 new homes; new Post Office; new Doctor's office; new Bank; new Water Supply and Treatment plant; newly purchased BaseBall Park; new Roman Catholic Church building; new St. Anthony's Novitiate Building; 8,000 feet of new sidewalks.

Population—over 1,500

400-5-20-65

CAMP BUTLER NATIONAL CEMETERY

Just across the river to the west, Camp Butler National Cemetery is on the site of a Civil War prison camp, where Confederate captives were held. It is near the training ground and point of departure of Civil War soldiers from Illinois. The cemetery is most beautifully kept. Harold F. Hammer, Supt.

ST. JOHN'S SANITORIUM AND ST. JAMES TRADE SCHOOL

are a little farther north, and serve many health and educational needs. Brother Felix, F.F.S.C. recently with St. Anthony's Noviciate, now is supt. of the St. James Trade School.

FIRST DEEP COAL MINE SITE

Riverton is the site of the first deep mine for coal in Illinois. The vein was discovered at the 200 foot level, late 1860's while drillings were being made for a good water supply for a distillery then operating here.

THIS LEAFLET

is prepared to help celebrate the first Lincoln Heritage Canoe Trip led by Sangamon Valley Chapter, Izaak Walton League, May 1965, by Clifford Bruner, Methodist Minister, on behalf of Riverton community interests in improving the Sangamon river for health and recreation.

Further details can be obtained through area representatives.

North — Ralph Freese
Chicago Land Canoe Base
4019 N. Narragansett
Chicago, Illinois
312-SP7-1489

Central — Jack Johnson, Chairman
12 N. Cotton Hill
Springfield, Illinois
217-529-4845

South — Dan Malkovich, Editor
Outdoor Illinois Magazine
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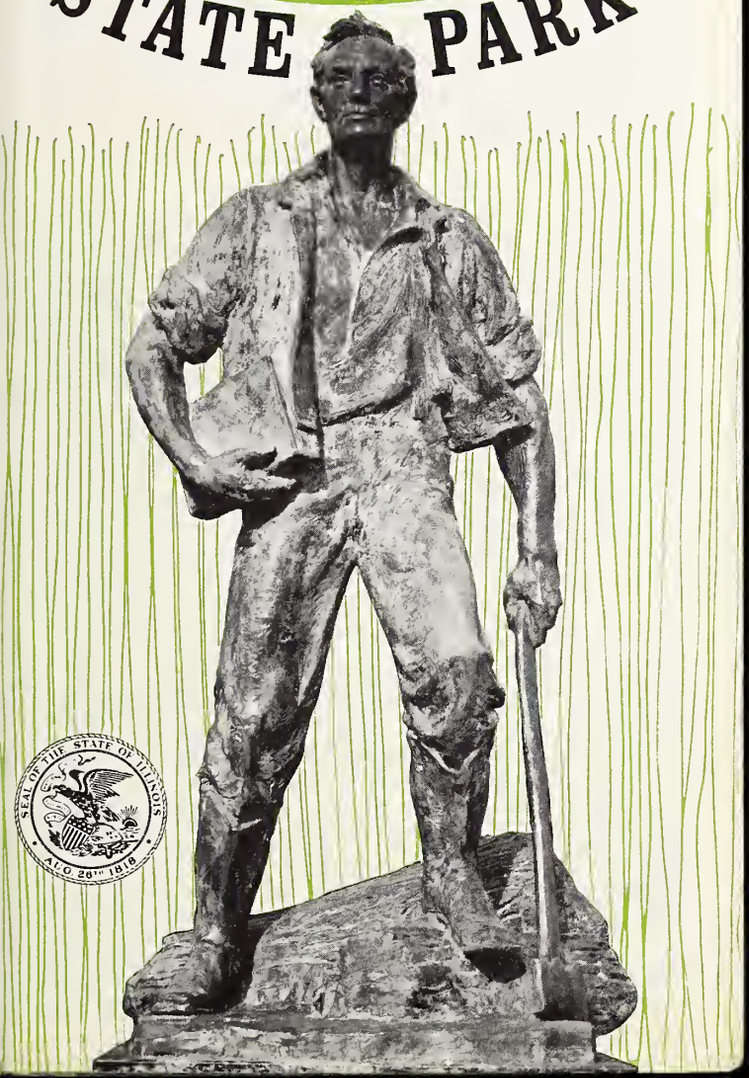
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SANGAMON VALLEY CHAPTER

IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE

Lincoln's NEW SALEM STATE PARK





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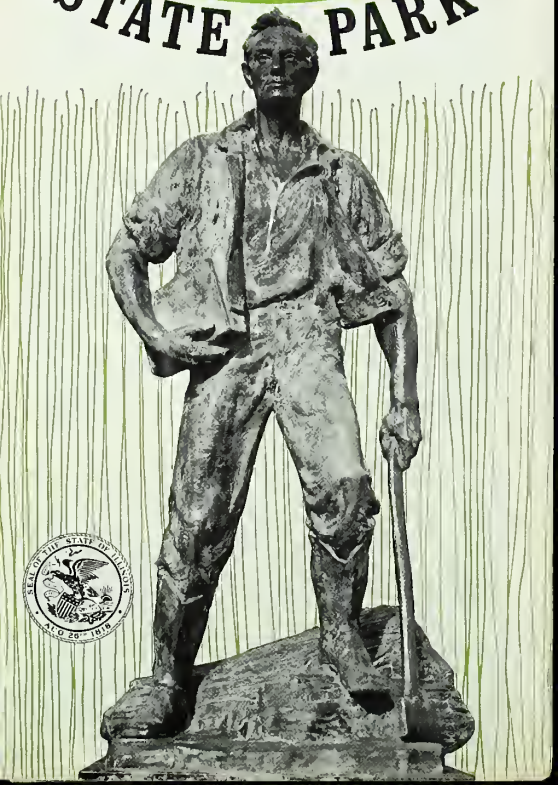
SANGAMON VALLEY CHAPTER

IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE



Lincoln's NEW SALEM STATE PARK





Probably the most impressive of Lincoln memorials is Lincoln's New Salem State Park located approximately 20 miles northwest of Springfield off of State Route 97 in Menard county. Located on a hill overlooking the Sangamon River, here, reproduced in flawless authenticity, is the village where Abraham Lincoln first left his imprint upon the pages of history.

It can be safely said that the six years Lincoln spent in New Salem formed a turning point in his career. From the gangling raw-boned youngster who came to the village in 1831 with no definite objectives, he became a man of purpose as he embarked upon a career of law and statesmanship. It was from New Salem that he was first elected to the Illinois General Assembly in 1834. He departed from New Salem for residence in Springfield in 1837.

As the passing years add to the stature of Lincoln among the figures in history, so do they change the significance and importance of Lincoln's New Salem State Park among the historic shrines of America. Infinite labor and endless research characterized the re-creation of this village where young Lincoln clerked in a store, chopped wood, enlisted in the Black Hawk War, served as postmaster, deputy surveyor, failed in business and was elected to the Illinois General Assembly in 1834 after an unsuccessful try in 1832.

Strangely, the six years that Lincoln spent in New Salem almost completely encompass the town's brief history. The community was growing and thriving when Lincoln reached there in 1831, but in 1839, just two years after he left New Salem for Springfield to practice law and advance himself in the facinating maze of politics, the county seat was established at nearby Petersburg. Thereafter, New Salem declined rapidly.

LINCOLN LEGEND GROWS

The village fell into decay and neglect, but while it settled into the dust, the Lincoln legend grew. And as the image of Lincoln became brighter in the Nation's consciousness, interest turned back to this deserted spot where he spent six formative years.

The first active step toward re-creating New Salem came in 1906 when William Randolph Hearst, lecturing at the Old Salem Chautauqua near Petersburg, became interested in the preservation of the site, bought it, and transfered it in trust to the Chautauqua Association. In 1917, the Old Salem Lincoln League was formed in Petersburg to carry on research and keep alive interest in New Salem. In 1918, with the consent of Mr. Hearst, the land was transferred to the State of Illinois, and the following year became a State Park.

During the years that followed public interest in the park grew steadily and visitors from all over the nation came in constantly-increasing numbers. In 1931, the General Assembly appropriated $50,000 for permanent improvements to the park, and the cabin construction was begun. The cornerstone for the first of the reconstructed buildings, the Berry-Lincoln Store, was laid November 17, 1932.

The only original building in the park is the Onstot Cooper Shop. It was built in 1835, moved to Petersburg in 1840, and returned to New Salem in 1922 by the Old Salem Lincoln League. It was in this shop that Lincoln studied by the light of a fire made from cooper's shavings.

AUTHENTIC FURNISHINGS

Twelve timber houses, plus the Rutledge Tavern, and ten shops, stores, industries and a school where church services were held, have been reproduced and furnished as they were in the 1830's. The furnishings, including many articles actually used by the New Salem folk of Lincoln's time and others dating back to the same period, were assembled and donated to the State by the Old Salem Lincoln League. The collection includes such authentic early nineteenth century articles as wheat cradles, candle molds, cord beds, flax shuttles, wool cards, dough and corn meal chests and early American pewter and earthenware. For the doctors' offices there are mortars and pestles, surgeons' instruments, medicine chests and old medical texts; for the cobbler's shop, awls, lasts and rasps; for the tavern, old kitchen and tableware; and for the stores, calico bolts, implements, jars, and items of merchandise typical of the times.



KEY TO RESTOREO BUILOINGS

1 — HENRY ONSTOT CABIN
2 — ONSTOT COOPER SHOP
3 — TRENT BROTHERS CABIN
4 — MILLER-KELSO CABIN
5 — MILLER BLACKSMITH SHOP
6 — ROBERT JOHNSON CABIN
7 — ISAAC GULIHUR CABIN
8 — ISAAC BURNER CABIN
9 — MARTIN WAOOELL CABIN
10 — HILL CAROING MACHINE
11 — FIRST BERRY-LINCOLN STORE (PRESENT U. S. POST OFFICE)
12 — PETER LUKIN CABIN
13 — OR. FRANCIS REGNIER CABIN
14 — MENTOR GRAHAM SCHOOL
15 — SAMUEL HILL CABIN
16 — HILL-McNAMAR STORE
17 — SECONO BERRY-LINCOLN STORE
18 — OR. JOHN ALLEN CABIN
19 — RUTLEOGE TAVERN
20 — ROWEN HERNOON CABIN
21 — OENTON OFFUT GROCERY
22 — CLARY BROTHERS GROCERY
23 — RUTLEOGE-CAMRON GRIST & SAW MILL

Even flower and vegetable gardens and trees have been planted for historical authenticity and to re-create the original village scene. Red haw, Osage orange hedges, wild crab, wild plum, witch hazel, wild blackberry, wild gooseberry, and other trees and plants popular with New Salem pioneers have been planted. At the homes of two doctors in the village, herb gardens grow again.

ONSTOT RESIDENCE AND COOPER SHOP

Henry Onstot, cooper, built a two-room house in the spring of 1835. Later he added the frame lean-to. This was Onstot's third home in the village. He built his first home and first cooper shop in the eastern portion of town about 1830, upon his arrival in New Salem. From 1833 the Onstots lived at the Tavern, which they operated after the Rutledges moved to Sand Ridge.

Onstot erected his second shop while operating the Rutledge Tavern in 1834. A year later he built his residence to the west and lived there until 1840. Abraham Lincoln and Isaac Onstot, the eldest son, were friends and often studied together here by the light of the fire kindled by the cooper's shavings.

In 1840 the shop was moved to Petersburg, where Onstot carried on his business for many years. Later weatherboarding was added on the exterior, larger windows were installed, and it was used as a residence until 1922, when it was purchased by the Old Salem Lincoln League, stripped of its weatherboarding and re-erected on this original site.

TRENT BROTHERS' CABIN

The Trent brothers erected their cabin probably in 1831 or 1832. They lived together with their families and for a time operated the Berry-Lincoln store.

Alexander Trent served in Lincoln's Company of the 4th Regiment of Mounted Volunteers in the Black Hawk War in 1832.

It is not known when they left New Salem but Alexander made his home in Petersburg during 1840's The excavations for the cabin disclosed all original stone piers in place and was the most complete foundation uncovered.

MILLER AND KELSO CABIN

Joshua Miller, village blacksmith and wagonmaker, and John A. ("Jack") Kelso, fisherman, hunter and philosopher, erected a double house in 1832. They married sisters. Although both were industrious, their efforts were directed along different lines. Miller was engaged in shoeing horses, ironing wagons and forging other ironwork, while Kelso was busy fishing, trapping and reading. Lincoln was attracted to Kelso and through him first became acquainted with Blackstone, Shakespeare and Burns and the classics of literature. Both families left New Salem about 1841.

MILLER'S BLACKSMITH SHOP

Joshua Miller, the village and community blacksmith, carried on a flourishing business here, shoeing horses, furnishing iron for wagons and farming implements and general metal work for the neighborhood. The ring of his anvil was a familiar sound in New Salem and was heard for many hours each day.

This restoration was made with great care with the assistance of the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. The tools, forge and hand bellows which have seen many years of service are of the type originally used by Miller.

ROBERT JOHNSON CABIN

Robert Johnson, the wheelwright and furniture maker, built a log cabin, probably during the year 1831. The Johnsons, who had three children, were a family of modest means. They were devout members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and regularly attended the Rock Creek camp meetings.

It is probable that they abandoned their home about 1839, during the general exodus from New Salem.

ISAAC GULIHUR CABIN

Isaac Gulihur erected his home on the south side of Main Street probably in 1832 or 1833. He married the daughter of Isaac Burner, his neighbor. He served in Lincoln's company of the 4th Regiment of Mounted Volunteers in the Black Hawk War in 1832. It is not known when he left New Salem.

ISAAC BURNER CABIN

Isaac Burner with his family and Isaac Gulihur are said to have come to New Salem from Kentucky in 1829 or 1830. The records show that on October 25, 1832, Isaac Burner purchased two lots from John M. Camron, and wife, Polly, for $10.00. In 1835 the Burner family left New Salem and moved to the country about six miles southwest of Knoxville.

MARTIN WADDELL CABIN

Martin Waddell, the hatter, built a two-room house about 1832. He made hats of fur and wool in the small south room and boiled his wool in the kettle, which is the original one, under the porch roof.

The Waddell family left New Salem about 1838. Whether the house was abandoned or moved away is not known.

HILL'S CARDING MILL AND WOOL HOUSE

Samuel Hill, owner of one of the stores, erected a carding mill and wool house in the spring of 1835. He advertised that he would commence carding on May 1. "The machines are nearly new and in first rate order, and I do not hesitate to say, the best work will be done. Just bring your wool in good order and there will be no mistake."

The mill was operated by Hardin Bale, who later purchased it from Hill. Presumably, it was operated until the general exodus from New Salem and then was removed by Hardin Bale to Petersburg and operated there.

The power was furnished by two oxen treading the circular inclined wheel on the north side. The double carder typical of this period and vicinity was built by the Schofield Brothers in Byfield, Massachusetts, in 1804. The idea and patterns were smuggled into America from England. Uncarded wool was stored in the attic. The excavations disclosed all the former post holes and machinery pits and the restoration occupies the identical original locations.

FIRST BERRY-LINCOLN STORE

James and Rowan Herndon, brothers, built this store building probably in the fall of 1831, and engaged in the mercantile business.

James Herndon, at that time a bachelor and boarding at the Rutledge Tavern, sold his interest to William F. Berry early in the summer of 1832, and later in the same year Rowan sold his interest to Abraham Lincoln, taking Lincoln's note in payment.

About January, 1833, Berry and Lincoln purchased the store of Reuben Radford and moved across the street to the second Berry-Lincoln store.

Since three stores have been restored and equipped, it was though best to use this building as the Post Office—in which is exhibited in graphic form a record of the restoration of New Salem.

DR. FRANCIS REGNIER'S OFFICE

This one-room log cabin was erected by Henry Sinco in 1831, and it is believed he used it as a store. During the following year Dr. Francis Regnier, twenty-five years of age and the son of a French physician, came to New Salem and bought the lot and cabin from Sinco. He lived here alone, using the cabin as a combined home and office, until August 1834, when he married and moved to Clary's Grove with his bride, Sophia Ann Goldsmith. Eventually the doctor and his wife moved to Petersburg where he established an extensive practice and took an active interest in civic affairs.

LUKINS AND FERGUSON RESIDENCE AND SHOP

Peter Lukins, a shoemaker, built his house some time during 1831 and lived there one year. In 1832 he entered a quarter-section of land two miles north of New Salem, settled there, and, with George Warburton, had it surveyed into lots and streets. This was the founding of Petersburg.

Alexander Ferguson, another cobbler and shoemaker, arrived about the time Lukins left, moved into the house and took up Lukins' trade. About 1839, when the village was abandoned, he moved away.

SAMUEL HILL CABIN

Samuel Hill came to New Salem in 1829. In the spring of 1835 he built a four-room house; and on July 28, 1835, he married Parthena Nance of Farmer's Point. Theirs was the only full two-story house in the village.

In 1839, Hill with his wife and baby moved to Petersburg.

HILL-McNAMAR STORE

Samuel Hill erected New Salem's first store in 1829. He conducted the enterprise with John McNamar (who at that time assumed the name McNeil) until 1832 but from that time on he operated the store alone. Hill was appointed postmaster on Christmas Day, 1829, consequently this became New Salem's first post office. Later, Abraham Lincoln probably served a portion of his postmastership here, while clerking for Hill. This was the village's only store after the failures of Offutt, Trent Brothers and Berry and Lincoln. Its stock was very complete and was one of Hill's several prosperous enterprises.

DR. JOHN ALLEN CABIN

Doctor John Allen came to New Salem in 1830. In 1833 he built a three-room log residence and on March 27, 1834, married Mary E. Moore. Because of his extensive practice, he became one of New Salem's most prosperous citizens. He was a devout Presbyterian and established the village's first Sunday School and Temperance Society in his house.

The Allens moved to Petersburg in 1838. The following year a tenant whose name is now unknown lived in the cabin; the next two years the Henry Traylor family occupied it and finally, in 1842, it was abandoned.

BERRY-LINCOLN STORE

George Warburton, in 1830, erected New Salem's only sheathed structure. Later the Chrisman Brothers and Reuben Radford also operated stores here. In January, 1833, William F. Berry and Abraham Lincoln moved here from their first store, located just west of Ferguson's residence. Lincoln may have served a portion of his postmastership in this building.

In the spring of 1833 Lincoln sold his interest to Berry, who later sold the enterprise to the Trent Brothers.

The large room was the store proper, while the rear lean-to served as a storeroom and, for a time, as Lincoln's bedroom.

THE RUTLEDGE TAVERN

James Rutledge built the Rutledge Tavern in New Salem, probably in the fall of 1828. As originally erected it contained two large log rooms with loft above. The two frame rooms on the south were added later either by Rutledge or another proprietor of the Tavern.

James Rutledge moved with his family, early in 1833, to a farm to Sand Ridge. Nelson Alley became the new owner and rented the Tavern to Henry Onstot who occupied it until 1835. Alley occupied it for a year or so then rented it to Michael Keltner.

In 1837 Alley sold the land and cabin to Jacob Bale and from this time on it ceased to be the Tavern and later became known as the "Bale House."

The Bale family lived in the Tavern long after the rest of the town, had disappeared. It was the first cabin to be erected and the last to succumb, falling to the ground about 1880.

It is believed that the large east room was the combined kitchen, dining room and guest sitting room. The west room was the family sitting room and bedroom and perhaps the occasional lady guest was quartered there. The west lean-to room was the family bedroom and the east lean-to was the summer kitchen and general storage room.

The loft served as sleeping quarters for the men guests and perhaps the Rutledge boys. When Lincoln boarded at the Tavern he slept in the loft.

HERNDON BROTHERS CABIN

James and Rowan Herndon, merchants, and cousins of William Herndon who was later the law partner of Lincoln, and one of his biographers, built a residence and store in New Salem probably in the spring of 1831. While clerking at the Offutt store, Lincoln took his meals at the Herndon home as it was the nearest dwelling to the store. The brothers left New Salem sometime during the year 1833.

DENTON OFFUTT'S STORE

Denton Offutt secured a license on July 8, 1831, to operate a retail store in New Salem. With the assistance of Abraham Lincoln he erected a log store building the following month. After its completion Lincoln was employed as a clerk. He slept in the rear room and boarded with the Rowan Herndon family who lived a short distance to the southwest. Later Offutt rented the mill and employed William Greene to assist Lincoln with the details of both enterprises.

This famous little store operated for the short period of eight months and closed its doors in April 1832, when Offutt fled the country, leaving his creditors unpaid Whether it was abandoned or moved away is not known.

CLARY'S GROCERY

William Clary, brother of John Clary, the first settler in Menard County, and founder of Clary's Grove five miles west of New Salem, built a "grocery" about 1830. This was the town saloon, and was operated as such until 1833, when Clary migrated to Texas.

THE SAW AND GRIST MILL

The original mill was erected in 1829 by James Rutledge and John Camron, a year after Camron had entered the eighty acres on which the village stands. Believing the mill would attract trade, they had the land platted into town lots and blocks.

The reconstructed mill is on the original site but owing to the river changing its channel a mill pond furnishes the water for the mill.

It was on the old mill dam that Lincoln stranded his river flatboat, thus introducing him to New Salem which became his home for six years

SCHOOL AND CHURCH

Mentor Graham built and taught a "subscription school" in a log cabin nearly one half a mile south of the west end of the village. This building, the only "round log" cabin restored, was also used as a church.



Samuel Hill opened carding mill and wool house in 1835.



The Onstot cooper shop is the only original building.



Interior view shows stock in Hill-McNamar Store.



Dr. Francis Regnier had office and home in one-room cabin.



Oxen pull Conestoga wagon as in early days at New Salem.



Interior view of the Jack Kelso cabin in village.



The first Berry-Lincoln Store serves as Post Office.



Berry-Lincoln Store is only building with siding.



The Rutledge Tavern where Lincoln slept in the loft.

FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT AT LINCOLN'S NEW SALEM STATE PARK

CAMPING AREA — Modern trailer court with showers and electrical outlets, also tent camping area. Permits for either must be obtained from the Park Ranger.

PICNICKING — There are fine picnic facilities with pure water, fire places and picnic tables at designated areas. Cooking may be done on park or camp stoves.

POST OFFICE — The first Berry-Lincoln Store now houses a United States Post Office where post cards, books, souvenirs and other mailable items are sold. All mail deposited here bears the cancellation "Lincoln's New Salem, Illinois."

THE HILLTOP — Located at the entrance to the reconstructed pioneer village. Open the year round. Offers for the convenience of vistors a choice of fine books, gifts and souvenirs of Lincoln's New Salem and an excellent variety of illustrated cards, booklets and folders to mail to your friends. Food service includes sandwiches, beverages, refreshments. Telephone area code 217—632-2116.

NEW SALEM LODGE — (Privately operated) located at entrance to State Park. Dining room adjoins guest rooms. Swimming pool nearby (50¢ fee for non-guests). Telephone area code 217—632-2440. Additional modern motel accommodations in immediate vicinity of Park or motel or hotel accommodations in Springfield only 30 minute drive from Lincoln's New Salem State Park.

THE TALISMAN — a replica of the steamboat that traveled the Sangamon River in Lincoln's day; leaves the Park on hourly trips each day during the summer months.

GOLFING — A nine hole course is nearby. See Park Ranger for details.









For further information concerning Illinois State Parks and Memorials write to the DIVISION OF PARKS AND MEMORIALS, 100 State Office Building, Springfield, 62706.

Our numerous State Parks and Memorials are of easy access from every part of the state. Lodges, cabins, and dining rooms are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette, White Pines Forest, and Giant City State Parks. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

All State Parks are open the year round, except when weather condition necessitates the closing of park roads during the freezing and thawing periods. Then access to park facilities is by foot traffic only.

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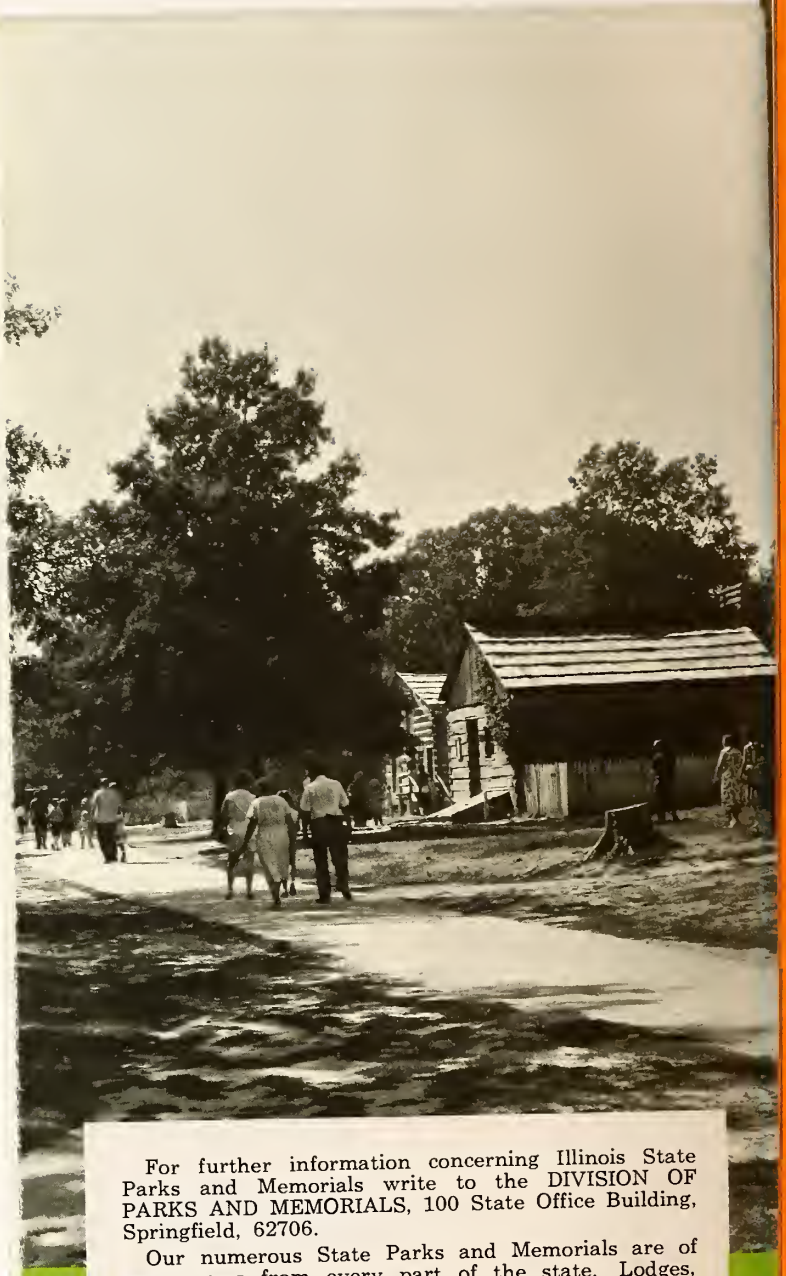
Lincoln's new salem

STATE HISTORIC SITE



Illinois Department of Conservation
life and land together

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NEW SALEM

With its many streams Sangamon County has a rich mixture of timber and tall prairie. By the 1820's early settlers in midstate Illinois were just beginning to realize that it was not true that where the oak grew the tallest, the soil was the richest. As settlers turned north into Illinois from the National Road, they edged into the prairie. They had at first kept close to the timber, because there was a ready supply of wood and the sod was not so thick. Early fears of prairie settlement were soon dispelled and the only obstacle was the need for a better plow for reaching the rich soil which lay beneath the tough prairie sod. Soon settlers spread out all over the Sangamon area and new towns were being created.

On July 19, 1828, John M. Camron purchased a tract of land on the Sangamon River. Camron and his uncle, James Rutledge, were millers and intended to construct a saw and grist mill along the Sangamon on this piece of property. On January 22, 1829, the state legislature granted them permission to build a dam and construction began. Soon the mill was drawing trade from miles around.

The location of the site looked promising. Situated along an apparantly navigable river and on a road connecting Springfield with Havana, Camron and Rutledge recognized the possibilities. On October 23, 1829, Rueben Harrison, a surveyor, planned and laid out a town which the proprietors called New Salem. An average lot sold for about $10.00. By January, 1830, Samuel Hill and John McNeil had opened a store and established a post office. William Clary opened a store and town lots were being developed.

In 1830, Henry Onstot built a residence and a small cooper shop in the southeastern part of town, and William Clary established a ferry making the mill and the town more accessible from the east. Within a year after its platting, New Salem was showing signs of becoming a prosperous river town.

1831 saw the greatest influx of newcomers. James and Rowan Herndon arrived in early spring and later that year opened a store. Dr. John Allen, a young physician from Vermont, arrived in August. The following month, Denton Offutt, whose flatboat had been stranded on the mill dam earlier in the year, opened a store with Abraham Lincoln as the clerk. George Warburton erected a frame structure, conducted a mercantile business and sold alcohol by the drink. Henry Sinco, the constable at that time, opened a store. Peter Lukins built a residence and adjacent cobbler shop, and James Rutledge reportedly ran a house as a tavern and hotel.

1832 saw a major influx of businessmen and farmers and, unknown to the residents, New Salem had nearly reached its peak population. Residents who arrived that year included Dr. Francis Regnier; Isaac Burner;

Isaac Gulihur; Martin Waddle, the hatter; Philemon Morriss, who erected a residence and tanyard; the Trent brothers (Alex and Martin S.); Robert Johnston, the wheelwright and woodworker; Joshua Miller, the blacksmith; and Jack Kelso, Miller's brother-in-law.

New Salem could now meet many of its own needs as well as those of the surrounding agricultural community through local production and commerce. Hides were brought to Philemon Morriss for tanning; the cobbler made shoes or other leather goods, although some items were available from local storekeepers. Yard goods, soap and tea, and a variety of hardware were on sale. Grain was brought to the mill for grinding. Home-made or home-grown products were traded for services, merchandise or other special foodstuffs, like sugar and coffee. Some products taken in trade were packed in Henry Onstot's barrels and shipped to major ports like St. Louis or New Orleans. Two physicians treated the residents of the area.

In 1832, New Salem was prospering and its future promising. The riverboat "Talisman" had successfully navigated the Sangamon River that spring and most people agreed that with enough funding, the river could be improved enough to be navigated most of the year. But needed improvements were never made and the river was never again successfully navigated by riverboat. In 1836, the steamboat 'Utility" was run aground trying to ascend the river. New Salem held its own for the next few years, but hopes were beginning to diminish.

While other towns in the area grew, New Salem did not and these other towns took away much needed trade. In May, 1836, the promoters of nearby Petersburg succeeded in having the Post Office moved there. By the following year, citizens like Dr. Regnier, Dr. Allen, John McNeil, Philemon Morriss, the Burners, the Gulihurs, the Waddles, the Kelsos and Abraham Lincoln had moved elsewhere. Samuel Hill, who had erected a wood carding mill in 1835, sold it to Jacob and Hardin Bale, who had been operating the saw and grist mill since 1832.

On February 15, 1839, the state legislature subdivided Sangamon County, creating Menard County with Petersburg as the county seat. This proved to be the final blow for New Salem. Sam Hill, Henry Onstot and the other few remaining residents, established themselves elsewhere. As these people moved out, the Bales' bought their land and eventually owned the entire village site.

LINCOLN AND NEW SALEM

Abraham Lincoln arrived in New Salem by accident; he stayed there six years, leaving with a career as a lawyer and legislator ahead of him.

In April, 1831, Lincoln was just 22 years old, had only recently left his father's home,

and was, as he himself confessed, "as aimless as a piece of driftwood."

To earn a little money, he and two other young men had contracted with a merchant named Denton Offutt to pole a flatboat loaded with farm produce down the Sangamon River from Springfield to the Illinois River and then down the Mississippi to the markets at New Orleans. But their journey seemed to have ended almost before it began when, on April 19th, their heavily laden flatboat stranded itself atop the mill dam at New Salem. Efforts to pull it off from shore failed, and, with its stern under water and its bow jutting high in the air, the boat seemed in imminent danger of sinking.

Lincoln ordered that the stern be unloaded to allow the boat to right itself. Next he drilled a hole in the bow to drain out the water the vessel had shipped. Finally, he plugged the hole and the flatboat floated safely off the dam.

While stranded at New Salem, Offutt studied the site and decided to return that summer to open a store. Lincoln's level-headedness in freeing the raft had impressed him, and he offered the young flatboatman a chance to be his clerk. After helping to deliver the cargo to New Orleans, Lincoln took a steamboat back to St. Louis, then walked to New Salem in August.

Offutt's store did not last long, but Lincoln decided to stay in town. New Salem had taught him many lessons. He made many lifelong friends and learned from associations with different kinds of people. He was given the time and opportunity to try his hand at many jobs, and to continue his self-education. Politics always seemed to be his first love: he announced his candidacy as a whig for the state legislature in March, 1832, just seven months after he arrived. He did not yet have any long-range ideas of what he might do to support himself, but Abraham was always looking for new opportunities.

One such opportunity arose on April 21, 1832, when he and many of his friends joined the 4th Regiment of Mounted Volunteers to assist in the Black Hawk War. Lincoln was elected captain of his company. He remained in the service until he was mustered-out on July 10, 1832.

Upon his return to New Salem, Abraham continued his campaign for the state legislature. He was defeated on August 6, 1832. After that defeat, he purchased Rowan Herndon's share in a store owned by Herndon and William Berry. The firm became known as Berry and Lincoln.

On January 15, 1833, Berry and Lincoln purchased a stock of goods from William Greene Jr. and moved to a better location at the Warburton building, now known as the second Berry-Lincoln store. On May 7, Lincoln became New Salem's postmaster. He held the postmastership until May 30, 1836, when the office was moved to Petersburg.

Another opportunity was his appointment as a deputy surveyor. His first survey was on January 14, 1834, and he continued to survey for about three years.

Abraham Lincoln was first elected to the state legislature on August 4, 1834, and again on August 1, 1836. On September 9, 1836, Abraham was licensed to practice law and was admitted to the bar on March 1, 1837. The future for a rising attorney and politician lay in Springfield. So on April 15 of that year he collected his belongings and left for the new state capitol and a different kind of life.

THE RECONSTRUCTION OF NEW SALEM

Interest in the site of the village of New Salem was kept alive for years by the Old Salem Chautauqua Association, whose summer meetings attracted many individuals to the area. The first step toward reconstruction was taken in 1906, when the Chautauqua Association interested newspaper publisher William Randolf Hearst in the site. Hearst, who had been lecturing to the Association, agreed to purchase the site and convey it in trust to them. In 1917, The Old Salem Lincoln League was formed to carry on research and keep alive interest in the site.

On April 3, 1919, the Chautauqua Association conveyed the site to the state of Illinois. At that time, the Association had erected several cabins on original sites, built a road and marked other sites. These cabins were not authentic reproductions and were subsequently dismantled.

In 1931, the state legislature appropriated $50,000 for "Permanent Improvements" at the site. By November, 1932, the English Brothers, general contractors from Champaign, Illinois, were awarded a contract to construct twelve cabins at the site. Ground-breaking ceremonies were conducted on November 17, 1932, at the site of the Second Berry-Lincoln Store.

The Civilian Conservation Corps continued the reconstruction efforts. Some of the CCC contributions include the Rutledge-Camron Saw and Grist Mill, the Hill Carding Mill, the Miller Blacksmith Shop and the Church and School House. In addition to the reconstructions many of the present day public and service facilities were built by the CCC.

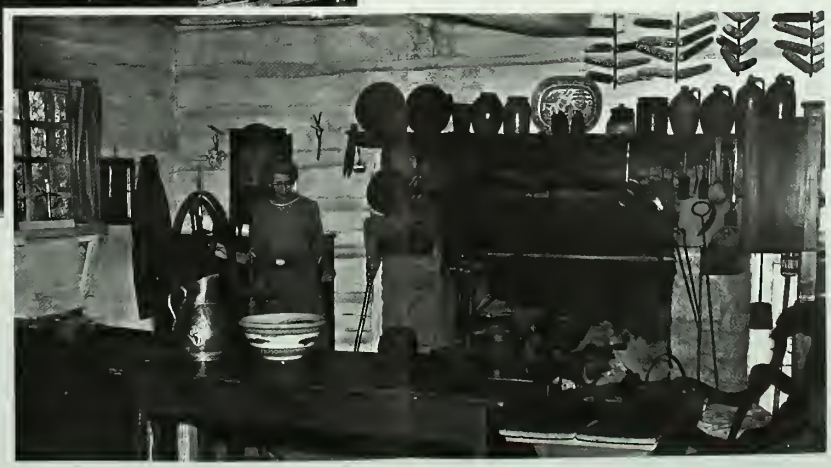
The Onstot Cooper Shop is the only original building at the site. It was found in Petersburg by the Old Salem Lincoln League and restored to its original foundation in 1922. In addition, the Lincoln League undertook a drive to secure furnishings for the cabins. Within a short while, over 900 authentic, period articles had been donated, a number of which had belonged to New Salem residents. Further research has been conducted since the initial reconstruction of the 1930's and 1940's. Periodic archaeology and construction of outbuildings have marked the reconstruction efforts. Additional buildings, gardens and other physical changes will be made as the history and appearance of New Salem are further documented.

AUTHENTIC FURNISHINGS

Twelve timber houses, plus the Rutledge Tavern, and ten shops, stores, industries and a school where church services were held, have been reproduced and furnished as they were in the 1830's. The furnishings, including many articles actually used by the New Salem people of Lincoln's time and others dating back to the same period, were assembled and donated to the state by the Old Salem Lincoln League. The collection includes such authentic early nineteenth century articles as wheat cradles, candle molds, cord beds, flax shuttles, wool cards, dough and cornmeal chests, and early American pewter and earthenware. For the doctors' offices there are mortars and pestles, surgeons' instruments, medicine chests and old medical texts; for the cobbler's shop, awls, lasts and rasps; for the tavern, old kitchen furnishings, utensils and tablewares; and for the stores, calico bolts, implements, jars and items of merchandise typical of the times.

Flower and vegetable gardens and trees have been planted for historical authenticity and to re-create the original village scene. Red haw, Osage orange hedges, wild crab, wild plum, witch hazel, wild blackberry, wild gooseberry and other trees and plants popular with New Salem pioneers have been planted. At the homes of two doctors in the village, herb gardens grow again.





FACILITIES

Picnicking: There are several designated picnic areas with water, tables and fireplaces. Cooking may be done on site or camp stoves.

Camping: Areas for both tents and trailers are available, with showers, electrical hookups and a sanitary station. All campers must obtain a permit from the site staff. Group camping is available; groups of over 25 persons must have advance permission to enter the site.

To reach the youth group campground, turn right (southeast) on Illinois 97 at the park entrance and drive one-half mile to the first road to the left (east). Follow the signs to the campground.

The Hilltop: A concession stand at the entrance to the reconstructed pioneer village is open the year round. A variety of souvenirs and mailing cards, along with sandwiches and beverages, are available. Phone 217/632-2277.

By-Word Sound Fields: For a small fee, the visitor can rent and use a lightweight cordless earphone and "hear" Lincoln and his neighbors speak. Those not wanting earphones will hear nothing and see no evidence of equipment. Phone 217/632-2452.

Post Office: The Hilltop Concession Stand houses a United States Post Office where postcards and stamps may be obtained. The first Berry-Lincoln Store also has a small selection of postcards. Mail deposited in both locations bears the cancellation "Lincoln's New Salem, Illinois. 62659".

Village Museum: The museum, a reconstructed stone structure and not a part of the village, houses exhibits of artifacts having belonged to the various families of New Salem, along with many other items of the period.

Talisman River Boat Trip: The Talisman is a replica of the steamboat that traveled the Sangamon River in Lincoln's day. The steamboat leaves the site on hourly trips each day during the summer months. There are weekend trips the rest of the year, depending on the water level of the river. Phone 217/632-7681.

Your Obedient Servant, A. Lincoln: A live, fast-paced dramatic production that chronicles the life of Abraham Lincoln with material from documents and speeches. Playing nightly (except Monday) from mid-June through late August in the outdoor amphitheater. For information and reservations call 217/632-7754, or contact the Great American People Show, Box 401, Petersburg, Illinois 62675.

Please: This area is for all to enjoy so help keep it clean. Put all litter in the nearest available trash container. No flowers, plants, shrubs or trees may be removed or damaged. If you need help or have a question, contact the site superintendent.

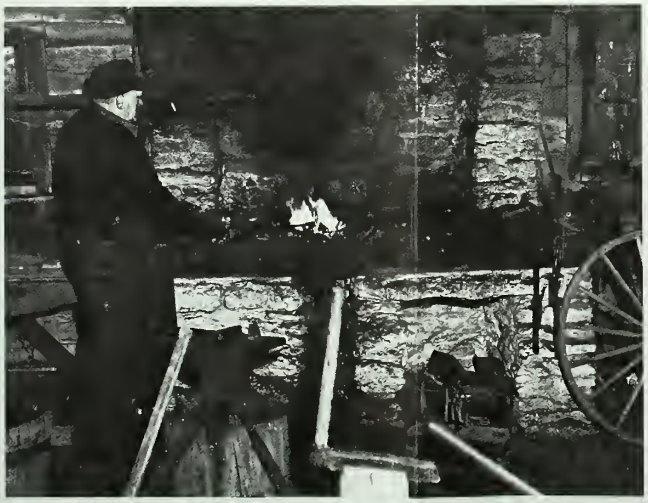
FOR YOUR INFORMATION . . .

Groups of 25 or more persons will not be admitted to any state park or conservation area unless permission from the site superintendent has been obtained to use the facilities. In addition, groups of minors must have adequate supervision and at least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors. All pets must be on a leash.

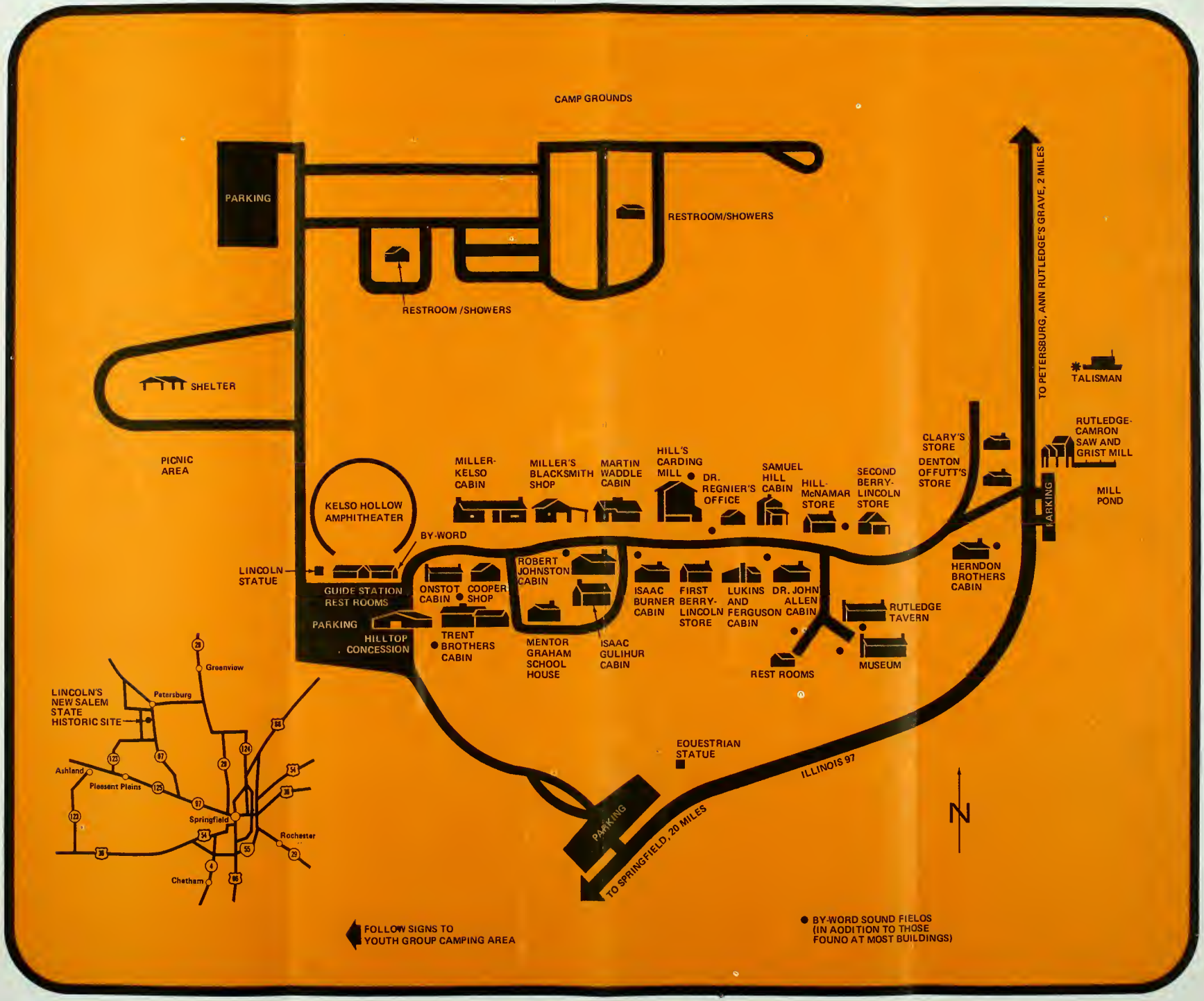
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Most state sites are open the year round, except on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. When weather conditions necessitate the closing of the roads during freezing and thawing periods, access to facilities is by foot only.

For more details on this site, contact the Site Superintendent, Lincoln's New Salem, Illinois 62659, phone 217/632-7953. For more information on other recreation areas write Department of Conservation, Land and Historic Sites, 605 Stratton Building, Springfield, Illinois 62706.






CAMP GROUNDS
PARKING
RESTROOM/SHOWERS
RESTROOM /SHOWERS
SHELTER
PICNIC AREA
TO PETERSBURG, ANN RUTLEDGE'S GRAVE, 2 MILES
TALISMAN
RUTLEDGE-CAMRON SAW AND GRIST MILL
MILL POND
PARKING
CLARY'S STORE
DENTON OFFUTT'S STORE
MILLER-KELSO CABIN
MILLER'S BLACKSMITH SHOP
MARTIN WADDLE CABIN
HILL'S CARDING MILL
DR. REGNIER'S OFFICE
SAMUEL HILL CABIN
HILL-McNAMAR STORE
SECOND BERRY-LINCOLN STORE
KELSO HOLLOW AMPHITHEATER
BY-WORD
LINCOLN STATUE
GUIDE STATION REST ROOMS
ONSTOT CABIN
COOPER SHOP
ROBERT JOHNSTON CABIN
ISAAC BURNER CABIN
FIRST BERRY-LINCOLN STORE
LUKINS AND FERGUSON CABIN
DR. JOHN ALLEN CABIN
HERNDON BROTHERS CABIN
PARKING
HILLTOP CONCESSION
TRENT BROTHERS CABIN
MENTOR GRAHAM SCHOOL HOUSE
ISAAC GULIHUR CABIN
RUTLEDGE TAVERN
REST ROOMS
MUSEUM
EQUESTRIAN STATUE
ILLINOIS 97
PARKING
TO SPRINGFIELD, 20 MILES
N
LINCOLN'S NEW SALEM STATE HISTORIC SITE
Greenview
Petersburg
Ashland
Pleasant Plains
Springfield
Rochester
Chetham
FOLLOW SIGNS TO YOUTH GROUP CAMPING AREA
● BY-WORD SOUND FIELDS (IN AODITION TO THOSE FOUND AT MOST BUILDINGS)

FACILITIES

Picnicking: There are several designated picnic areas with water, tables and fireplaces. Cooking may be done on site or camp stoves.

Camping: Areas for both tents and trailers are available, with showers, electrical hookups and a sanitary station. All campers must obtain a permit from the site staff. Group camping is available; groups of over 25 persons must have advance permission to enter the site.

To reach the youth group campground, turn right (southeast) on Illinois 97 at the park entrance and drive one-half mile to the first road to the left (east). Follow the signs to the campground.

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Post Office: The Hilltop Concession Stand houses a United States Post Office where





5

5 The Talisman Riverboat, a replica of the only steamboat to successfully navigate the Sangamon River, operates seasonal, 45 minute scenic rides.

6 Gardens of herbs and vegetables help breathe an air of life into the reconstructed village.



6

With camping on the grounds, the outdoor lover can venture out by tent, van or camping trailer. The 178 site campgrounds are open year round. Showers and flush toilets are closed during the winter months.

Picnic among the trees and listen to the birds and animals. Your family will love it. You'll always have that nice fresh feeling in one of the cleanest state parks in the nation.

There are a variety of programs available throughout the year. Enjoy self-guided walking tours, audio tours, school programs, lively historical demonstrations, interpreters in period clothing and regularly scheduled special events just to name a few.

And don't forget a ride on the Talisman Riverboat. When the river is up, you can relive the early days of the first freight and passenger vessel by paddling down the old Sangamon River. The dock is just a very short walk from the village.

On those very special days, if you choose to take part in activities that you'll long remember, visit the Village's many craft festivals, the New Salem Christmas Candlelight Tour and other renowned events. New Salem really comes to life. No matter when you visit New Salem State Park, you'll always find interpretive staff throughout the village willing to take you back into history and help you imagine life as it was in those exciting days of Abraham Lincoln, our 16th President of the United States.



New Salem Village Open All Year

(except New Year's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day)

Late April - Late October
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Daily
Late October - Late April
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Daily

Free Admission

Visitors are always admitted free of charge into the village as well as the museums and individual cabins. All festivals and special events taking place in the village are also free of charge.

For More Information Contact:

Dave Hedrick, Site Superintendent
New Salem State Park
R. R. 1, Box 244A
Petersburg, IL 62675
(217) 632-7953 or (217) 632-7611

Brochure produced by:

ILLINOIS TOURISM COUNCIL

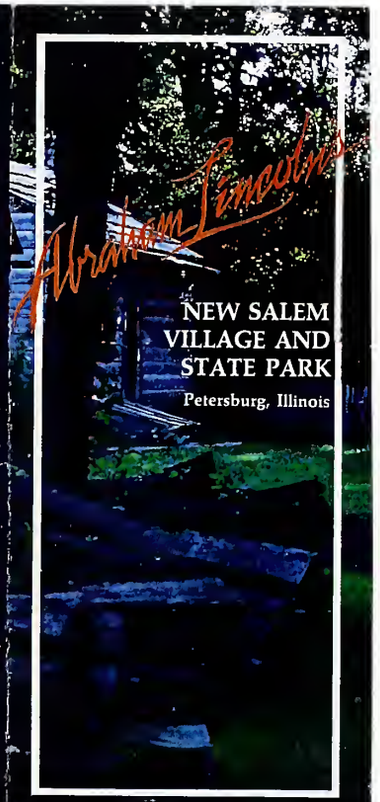
New Salem Lincoln League

Discover The Magnificent Miles of

Illinois

Department of Commerce and Community Affairs
Office of Tourism
printed with state and local funds

50M / 12-84



NEW SALEM VILLAGE AND STATE PARK

Petersburg, Illinois

Walk Through a Village of the Past . . .

New Salem State Park proudly preserves one of the most historic villages in the Americas. This 19th Century community is accurately restored and adapted to the lifestyles of the 1830's.

A young Abraham Lincoln decided to live in the village of New Salem after stopping off there while co-piloting a flatboat down the Sangamon, Illinois and Mississippi waterways. New Salem was a growing community, boasting a sawmill and gristmill, a tavern, general stores, a post office, stagecoach stop and several craftsmen.

Lincoln considered the potential of the village boundless and decided to settle there. As the town developed, so did his career. Lincoln developed from a self-admitted "aimless piece of driftwood" to a merchant, surveyor, postmaster and captain of the local militia. And finally it was here, where by the flicker of candlelight, he began to study law.

Today, you can touch the history and feel the emotion of yesterday as you walk through the winding paths of the village. Smell the fresh bread baking. Hear the rat-tat-tat of the blacksmith's hammer. Watch the hands of the candlemaker dipping the village light. And wonder to the skill of a woman performing magic with her spinning wheel.



1



2

1 The Great American People Show is a summer stock theatrical troup featuring live, historically based performances nightly except Monday.

2 The New Salem Saw and Grist Mill together with the Hill Carding Mill represents early efforts at industrializing Illinois.

3 The Miller Blacksmith Shop and the Onstot Cooper Shop represent two of the most important skilled trades in early Illinois. Other craftsmen such as a heller, cobbler and woodworker also inhabited New Salem.

4 Domestic animals, related wagons and outbuildings contribute to the visitors' feeling of walking back into time to experience the town Abraham Lincoln once knew.

It's all free. A village brought back to life with oxen, farm animals, craftsmen and interpretive guides giving you a historic overview of an era gone by. And a final walk through the famed New Salem Museum will recreate for you the history you and the family will enjoy.

Under the summer skies between July and August, the nationally acclaimed repertory theatre, The Great American People Show, presents nightly live performances in Kelso Hollow. Plays involving the life of Abraham Lincoln are performed Tuesday through Sunday, with a small admission charge for adults, children and groups.



3



4

Join Roy Leonard to the White Cliffs of Dover—Page 43A

HOME & AWAY

ILLINOIS/INDIANA ▪ AAA/CHICAGO MOTOR CLUB ▪ MAY/JUNE 1991 $1



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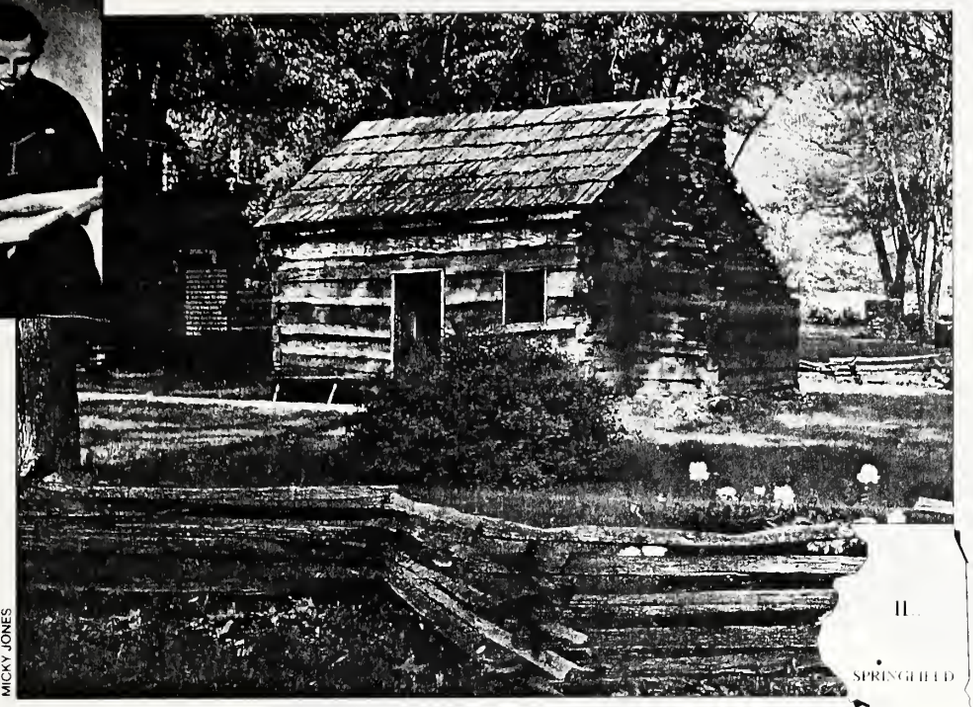
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GUARANTEED FIRST YEAR
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See Page 29A For Details.



WILLIAM R. WILSON



MICKY JONES



(Inset photo) Abraham Lincoln and his son, Tad, from an original photo by Mathew B. Brady, Feb. 9, 1864. (Right) Lincoln's boyhood home on Knob Creek, Hodgenville, Ky. He lived here between the ages of 2 and 7.

Where Lincoln Lived

Tracing a great man's legacy through Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois.

By Janet Ware

Every American child has to learn the names of the presidents. And while the likes of Millard Fillmore and James Garfield fade quickly from memory, there's one president we Americans never seem to forget—Abraham Lincoln. He stands as tall in our minds as he did in real life.

Three Midwestern states lay claim to Lincoln's legacy. Our 16th president was born in Kentucky, grew up in Indiana and launched his legal and political careers in Illinois. Although more than a century has passed since Abraham Lincoln lived, much of his life has been so carefully preserved that even today the meanderings of this man and his family can be easily traced.

Following in Lincoln's Footsteps

Interstate highways now crisscross the landscape where Lincoln once walked. But if you are willing to abandon these for lesser-traveled state and county roads, you can literally follow Lincoln's life from birth to death—from a humble log cabin in Kentucky to an imposing granite tomb in Illinois.

The Lincoln route offers an amazing variety of things to see and do in a relatively compact package. To trace Lincoln's footsteps, you will need two basic tools: your car and the AAA road maps for Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois. Plan on spending a week to follow the full course of Lincoln's life through the Midwest. Or, if you prefer, experience segments of his past over a series of long weekends.

AAA auto travel counselors can help you map out your route. Then, as you travel the back roads of Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois, watch for the highway medallion signs originally placed along the roadside by the three states and promoted by the Lincoln Heritage Trail Foundation. The Foundation no longer exists as a marketing entity for the trail, but the many medallion signs remaining help keep you on track.

Where to Start

The most logical place to begin your journey into Abraham Lincoln's past is where the man himself began in 1809—at Sinking Spring Farm near Hodgenville, Ky. Here, inside a templelike structure atop 56 steps (each representing a year of Lincoln's life) is the log cabin believed to be the actual birthplace of Abraham Lincoln. It's free and open every day of the year except Christmas.

Tom and Nancy Hanks Lincoln moved their family from Sinking Spring to nearby Knob Creek in 1811. At Lincoln's Boyhood Home on Knob Creek, you'll find a reproduction cabin built on the site where Abe lived until he was 7. The slavery issue and land disputes prompted Tom Lincoln to move his family again in 1816, this time to Indiana. Before following his footsteps, however, you'll want to see a few more sights on this side of the Ohio River—some Lincoln-related and some not. ▶

Other Kentucky Attractions

At the Lincoln Homestead State Park in Springfield, Ky., for example, you'll find the cabin Nancy Hanks occupied when Abe's father courted her. And in Bardstown, there's the Old Talbott Tavern, the oldest Western stagecoach stop in America. Abe Lincoln once slept here.

Bardstown is also home to Federal Hill, the gracious mansion immortalized in song by Stephen Foster as *My Old Kentucky Home*. The home is open for tours year-round, and on summer evenings you can hum along with the familiar melodies performed in the outdoor musical *The Stephen Foster Story*.

Nearby Harrodsburg, founded in 1774, was the first permanent English settlement west of the Alleghenies. Old Fort Harrod State Park features a reconstructed fort, craft demonstrations and the cabin in which Abraham Lincoln's parents were wed.

About 10 minutes up the road you'll find Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill. Founded in 1805, the village includes 30 original buildings reflecting Shaker life, as well as craft demonstrations, shops and lodging.

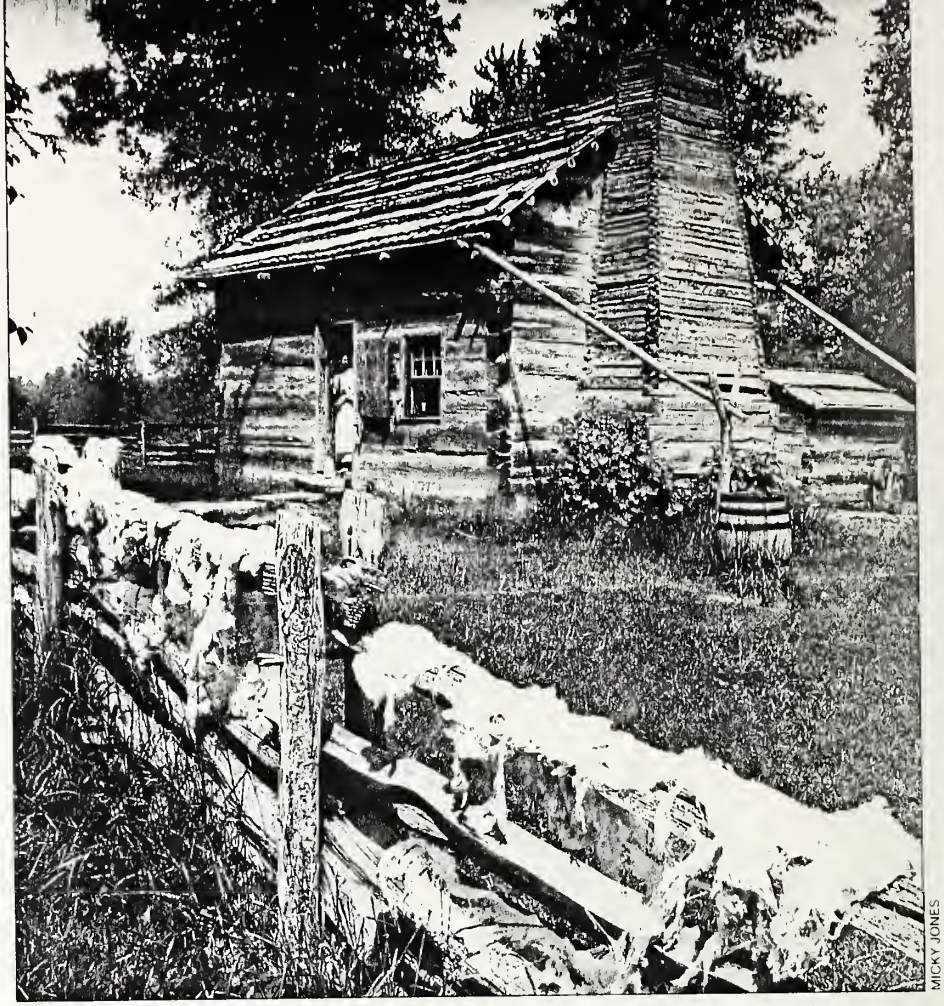
Lexington, Ky., lies just 40 minutes north of Pleasant Hill. Widely recognized as the horse capital of the world, Lexington was the girlhood home of Abraham Lincoln's wife, Mary Todd. Tours of her home are available Tuesday-Saturday from April 1-Dec. 15. Also in Lexington are Henry Clay's estate, Ashland, and the Kentucky Horse Park, 1,032 acres devoted entirely to the area's equine heritage.

The final leg of the Lincoln trail in Kentucky takes you to Louisville. Best known for the Kentucky Derby, this charming river city also boasts a Lincoln connection. When he broke his engagement to Mary Todd in 1841, young Abe Lincoln spent some time "healing" at Farmington, the home of Louisville residents John and Lucy Speed. You can tour the home, which was built in 1810 from a Thomas Jefferson design.

The Indiana Connection

Abraham Lincoln moved to Indiana at the age of 7 where he was to remain for 13 years. The Lincolns crossed the Ohio River by boat. Your route takes you over an interstate highway bridge. Your destination is the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, but along the way you will pass through Corydon, the site of Indiana's first state capital.

At the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial just outside Lincoln City, you'll find the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln and the Lincoln Living Historical Farm where crops are planted, tilled and harvested today as they were in Lincoln's time.



MICKY JONES

Lincoln lived in southwest Indiana for 13 years with the site near Lincoln City now known as the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial.

The Lincolns left Indiana for greener pastures in Illinois in 1830, traveling by way of Vincennes. You too will want to stop here for a look at the first capitol of the Indiana Territory and the George Rogers Clark Memorial honoring the man who opened the Northwest Territory for settlement.

Lincoln's Last Home: Illinois

Illinois is consummate Lincoln country. Here, his real birthday—Feb. 12—is still celebrated (schools and state offices are closed), and the license plates proclaim this as the "Land of Lincoln."

Traveling the Lincoln trail in Illinois is easy thanks to a brochure available from the Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau which maps out the route for you. Your ultimate goal is Springfield, but on the way from Indiana, you will pass near many Lincoln sights, including:

- A replica of the cabin where Lincoln's father and stepmother spent their final days, near Charleston.
- The Postville Courthouse in Lincoln. Schoolchildren collected the funds to construct this replica after Henry Ford spirited the original away for Greenfield Village in Michigan.
- The grave of Lincoln's legendary sweetheart, Anne Rutledge, in Petersburg.
- New Salem State Historic Park, a reconstruction of the village where Lincoln lived and worked from 1831-37. It's free and the buildings are open all year. In summer, interpreters in period dress demonstrate early American crafts. Also in summer, be sure to catch a performance of *Your Obedient Servant, A.*

New Book on Lincoln Sites

For more information on Lincoln sites, read *In Lincoln's Footsteps* by Don Davenport, a guide to more than 20 major Lincoln sites in the Midwest. The book is regularly priced at $12.95 but *Home & Away* readers can purchase it for $9.95 plus $2 for postage and handling from Prairie Oak Press, 2577 University Ave./H&A, Madison, WI 53705.

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Lincoln, dramatizing Lincoln's life through speeches, letters and song.

Your tour comes to a close in Springfield, the town where Lincoln launched his presidency and to which he returned at death. The only home Lincoln ever owned can be found in a four-block historic area near downtown. Built in 1839, the Lincoln home is newly renovated and today contains both original and reproduction furnishings. Tours are free, but you must acquire a ticket at the Lincoln Home Visitors Center. Go early in the day to reserve your spot; this is one of the nation's most visited attractions.

Also open to visitors are the Lincoln-Herndon law offices and the Great Western Railroad Depot. Lincoln left for Washington to assume the presidency from this depot; his coffin returned here in 1865.

The Old State Capitol in downtown Springfield has many Lincoln connections. In 1858, Lincoln delivered his memorable House Divided speech here, and in May 1865, his body lie in state at the capitol before burial in nearby Oak Ridge Cemetery.

Perhaps the most moving sight along the Lincoln trail is the granite tomb containing Abraham Lincoln's remains and those of his wife and three of their four sons. Dedicated in 1874, the tomb was built with public contributions at a cost of $180,000. It is a solemn tribute to the president we all remember best.



JACK OLSON

This famous statue, "Lincoln, Book and Ax", is located at New Salem State Historical Park near Petersburg, Ill.

No matter what time of year you travel, there's always plenty to see and do along the Lincoln trail. Festivals and fairs abound throughout the year. Most sights are open daily, but hours may be restricted in winter. And with a few exceptions, all are wheelchair accessible.

Accommodations and meals pose no problem for Lincoln trail travelers. There are family-priced motels and campgrounds aplenty, as well as luxury high-rise hotels in Lexington, Louisville and Springfield. Restaurants offer everything from home-cooked meals to gourmet fare. For great atmosphere and food, the Old Talbott Tavern in Bardstown and the Trustees' Office Inn at Shaker Village are winners. ■

For More Information

- Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau, 109 N. Seventh St./H&A, Springfield, IL 62701; (800) 545-7300, (217) 789-2360.
- Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial/H&A, Lincoln City, IN 47552; (812) 937-4541.
- Kentucky Tourism (800) 225-8747.
- Indiana Tourism, (800) 289-6646.
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superb plaster reliefs, the work of the same forgotten artisan who decorated two of the rooms at Mount Vernon—the west parlor and the dining room.

Washington was a dutiful son, although his relationship with his mother was never warm. In her old age he moved her to a house on Charles Street (No. 1200), which is now open to visitors. Sentimentally overlooking her peevish ways, Fredericksburg has erected a monument to Mary, at Washington Avenue.

For those who want to sleep and sup as well as follow in Washington's footsteps, Fredericksburg's Richard Johnston Inn offers an elegant Victorian atmosphere along with modern amenities (711 Caroline St.; nine rooms; tel: 703-899-7606; $55–$85). Le Lafayette on Caroline Street combines good French cooking with Virginia ingredients in a 1769 Georgian-style house (tel: 703-373-6895; $50). Snackers should stop in Kenmore's kitchen for tea and a slice of gingerbread, made from Mary Washington's recipe; the Marquis de Lafayette gave it a pre-Michelin three stars. In Alexandria, Gadsby's Tavern offers variations on the satisfying grub George consumed on his numerous visits (tel: 703-548-1288; $40). Many of Alexandria's hotels and motels offer special packages for his birthday weekend.

Mount Vernon is open 9 A.M.–4 P.M., winter; 9 A.M.–5 P.M., summer. Kenmore is open 10 A.M.–4 P.M., winter; 9 A.M.–5 P.M., summer. For more information on Alexandria, call the Convention Center and Visitors' Bureau (tel: 703-838-4200). For Fredericksburg, contact the Department of Tourism (tel: 800-678-4748).—*Thomas Fleming*

LINCOLN'S ILLINOIS

A complex man's uncomplex origins. Some refer to Illinois's most famous citizen as "Honest Abe," but the man himself never used the nickname. Politician that he was, Lincoln knew the value of publicly playing up his virtues, but privately he loathed his rail-splitter image. He had struggled to make up for his childhood lack of schooling, and throughout his life he was sensitive about his background.

His influence in Springfield is still



felt. The house he lived in, the office he occupied, and the legislature that he served in are all here. But his association with the town runs deeper. In 1837, he and a group of eight other young legislators—called the "Long Nine" because of their height—introduced a bill to move the state capital from Vandalia to Springfield. For Lincoln, it was a smart move: His constituency of New Salem was only a day's ride from the new capital.

Today, you can make the 21-mile drive northwest to see a reconstruction of that village, where Lincoln spent six years after leaving his father's homestead. Costumed interpreters take visitors through 23 stores, saloons, and log houses on the reconstructed site. Among the buildings are the general store Lincoln co-owned with William Berry, and Rutledge Tavern, where he boarded for a while. Here, he read voraciously, borrowing from the library of tavern keeper James Rutledge, founder of the local debating society. Legend has it that Rutledge's daughter, Ann, was Lincoln's great love, but the facts are more prosaic. When Lincoln met her, she was engaged to another man, and her relationship with Lincoln never went beyond a proper friendship.

Aside from giving Lincoln his start in law and politics, New Salem fostered his reputation for honesty. When his partner, Berry—one of the town's notorious alcoholics—died in 1835, he bequeathed Lincoln debts amounting to $1,100, a considerable sum in those days. Lincoln called it the "National Debt," and it wasn't until 1850 that he finally retired it.

In Springfield you can retrace Lincoln's adult life by taking a walk that begins at the Old State Capitol on Washington Street. The building has been reconstructed and looks much as it did when the young legislator took his seat and later argued cases before the Illinois State Supreme Court.

His success was important to him, and he wasn't above arguing both sides of the law to increase it. During the 1840s, the great emancipator represented both sides of the fugitive-slave law. And he built his practice with an eye to the future: After an embarrassing court session over the rights to the McCormick Reaper, he mastered the new technologies of his day and built up a reputation as a patent lawyer.

By 1855, Lincoln was a formidable presence in town. In 1842 he had married Mary Todd, against the advice of her socially prominent family, who would always look down on him and his backwoods ways. He was an affluent attorney who counted among his clients the Illinois Central Railroad (although he had to sue the company to collect his $4,800 fee). He was tough in court; his cross-examinations were ruthless and his jury selection careful, although he had his own prejudices. He preferred fat men to thin, thinking them more open-minded, and he considered blond, blue-eyed men high-strung and unstable.

The Springfield office he shared with William Herndon is near the Capitol building. It, too, has been restored—even down to the clutter. Originally, Lincoln had brought Billy Herndon into his practice because he hoped the younger man would be able to organize the office. Unfortunately, Herndon was no neater than his boss. Years later, he recalled the office chaos, blaming at least part of the problem on Lincoln's young sons, who were frequent visitors, rifling the drawers, writing on walls, and scrounging through boxes. Lincoln didn't help much, often filing his legal briefs in his hat. He recognized his faults, though. On top of his cluttered desk was a pile of papers tied up with string. Attached was an explanatory note: "When you can't find it

anywhere else," it read, "look into this."

A short walk away, at 8th and Jackson, is the two-story frame house Lincoln bought in 1844. This was the only home he ever owned, and here three of his four sons were born. A famous photograph taken during the 1860 campaign shows Lincoln standing in the front yard with his sons Willie and Tad. The elder, Willie, stands beside his father; at the moment the picture was taken, he moved, and his face is slightly blurred. Tad mischievously peeks out from behind a fence post.

Except that the trees are taller now than they were when the picture was taken, the house looks much the same. In 1988 the National Park Service restored it, taking paint chips from the walls and sidings and analyzing them to determine the original color scheme. The brown-painted exterior, with its green shutters, is the result.

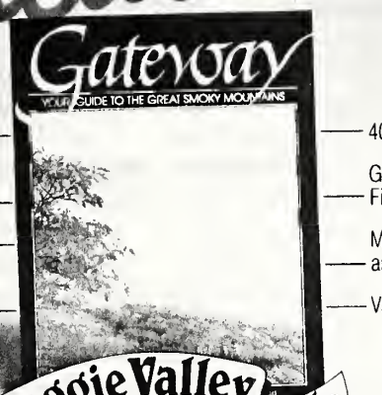
Inside, the wallpaper and draperies have been carefully checked for authenticity. The black horsehair sofas in the parlor, the secretary, and the pier table are original to the house—probably purchased by Mary, whose love for decorating would cause a scandal when Lincoln became president. When she exceeded a congressional appropriation to restore the White House, Lincoln raged that he couldn't justify spending "$20,000 for *flub-dubs* for this damned old house," and offered to pay the overrun from his own pocket.

But here in Springfield, she provided a comfortable home appropriate to an ambitious lawyer, and she—as well as he—was proud of it, entertaining their friends and his political cronies. Herndon, the law partner, was never included. Mary loathed him, thinking him boorish, and the dislike was mutual: Herndon, watching her on the dance floor, once likened her to a snake.

In the downstairs hall, Lincoln played with his sons, tickling them and chasing them, and here he relaxed, lying on the floor with his head leaning against an upended chair as he read his newspapers. Though Lincoln provided a maid to help his wife with the chores, he never quite got used to servants. He answered his front door himself—much to his wife's annoyance.

During his presidency, his colleagues

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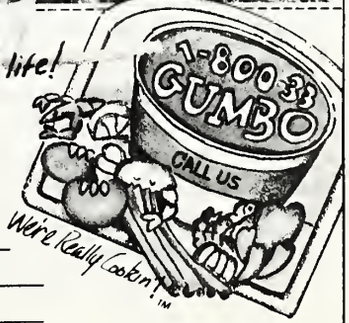
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remembered, Lincoln often spoke about what he planned to do after serving out his second term. He wanted to go west, to California, to see the Pacific. He also dreamed of seeing the Holy Land. Then, he thought, he would go back to the house at 8th and Jackson, back to the law, taking up where he had left off with Herndon. Mary had grander visions. They would go to Europe, she said, then retire in New York, or possibly Chicago.

On May 4, 1865, Lincoln was buried by Mary's choice just outside Springfield, in Oak Ridge cemetery. Temporarily, said the city fathers, who planned to build an elaborate monument in the center of town. But Mary would have none of it. Either her husband stayed in her spot or she would have him moved—back to Washington. In the end, Mary Lincoln got what she wanted, and he remained in Oak Ridge, where, Mary said, "The beauty and retirement of the spot would meet the approval of the whole civilized world."

Within a few blocks of the historic sites there are several restaurants—many of which have become institutions themselves. For lunch on weekdays and Saturdays, there is the Feed Store, which has the best soup in Springfield and a view of the Old State Capitol (516 E. Adams St.; $7). Mario's, on E. Clear Lake Street, has good square-style pizza ($10). Maldaner's, on South 6th Street, offers specialties such as walleye pike with wild-mushroom sauce or grilled lamb with black-bean relish (tel: 217-522-4313; $48). Norb Andy's has good steaks and prime ribs and the best jazz in Illinois outside of Chicago (tel: 217-523-7777; $30).

You can stay at Corinne's bed-and-breakfast (1001 S. 6th St.; four rooms; tel: 217-527-1400; $55–$80). The Queen Anne–style house, built in 1883, retains its original wood paneling, and is furnished with antiques and Oriental carpets. Downtown, there are the Ramada Renaissance (701 E. Adams; tel: 217-544-8800; $59–$104) and the Springfield Hilton (700 E. Adams; tel: 789-1530; $75). Both are within walking distance of the Lincoln attractions.

The New Salem State Historic Site is open 8 A.M.–4 P.M., winter; 9 A.M.–5 P.M., summer. In Springfield, the Lincoln attractions are open 8:30 A.M.–5 P.M. For summer hours, call the Springfield Convention and Visitors' Bureau (tel: 217-789-2360 or 800-545-7300). Tickets for the Lincoln house are sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Make sure to pick them up early, before they sell out.—*Dan Shomon*

LBJ'S TEXAS TARA

Things are not what they seem. When Lyndon Johnson bought his aunt's ranch in the Texas Hill Country in 1951, his friend and political ally, House Speaker Sam Rayburn, expressed a hope that the new acquisition might have a salutary effect on his single-minded protégé. "It will give Lyndon something to care about besides politics," Rayburn said. Johnson plunged into ranching with his typical fervor. He expanded the spread to 2,000 acres and swapped cattle with friends like his U.S. Senate colleague, Robert Kerr of



Oklahoma. But, in the end, politics won out. After Johnson attained the presidency, the ranch and the closeness to the land that it symbolized became instruments in his quest for the one political prize that forever eluded him: the love of the American people.

Today the ranch is part of the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park. The other part of the park, 14 miles to the east, is Johnson's boyhood home in Johnson City, a small town of 500 or so people that is named for his ancestors. Together they provide a first impression of an idyllic life: bright cottages, lush pastures, fat cattle. One has to look hard for clues to the real Lyndon Baines Johnson—but then, one always did, even when he was alive.

The park presents Johnson the way he wished himself to be seen: as a gentleman rancher, a man who had put down deep roots in the special place that was the Hill Country. "All my life I have drawn sustenance from the rivers and from the hills of my native state," he is quoted in a museum exhibit near his boyhood home. "I want no less for all the children of America than what I was privileged to have as a boy."

But this bucolic picture is not the way life was for Lyndon Johnson. What he knew as a boy, as biographer Robert A. Caro has shown, was the failure of his father and the unhappiness of his mother, and what he drew from the Hill Country was not sustenance but an overwhelming desire to escape it. Why did Johnson feel compelled to romanticize his story and create his own myth? The answer lies in the land itself, which, like the president it produced, is a mixture of promise and deception.

To the casual traveler—even to most Texans—the Hill Country is a benign place, a land of gentle hills covered with scrub oak and juniper, crystalline rivers beside limestone bluffs, and sweet, unspoiled air. It is where Texans send their kids to summer camp and go themselves to find relief from some of the most monotonous terrain in America—to the north, the last traces of the Great Plains; to the east, a steamy coastal flatland; to the south, the relentless thorns of the brush country; to the west, the Chihuahuan Desert. The Hill Country thrives on the contrast; just to drive through it can be exhilarating. You dip down to a spring-fed river, barely wider than a stream, which the road crosses a foot above the shallow water, so close that you can slow down and hear the river gurgle over its rock-strewn bed; and then you climb up a hillside and burst upon an unobstructed vista of hills and more hills, falling away into a plateau that finally disappears into a distant blue-gray ridge line.

This impression of a pleasant and benevolent land is nowhere so strong as on the LBJ ranch, which occupies one of the plateaus. Today it can only be visited by tour buses originating at a state park across the Pedernales River

By DOUGLAS L. WILSON

Chautauqua: Old and New

Chautauqua. The name of a lake in western New York state, for many years before and after the turn of the century it was a word to conjure with in the national vocabulary. For millions of Americans it came to represent a beguiling combination of summertime pleasures and cultural activity. The Chautauqua's broad appeal was downright remarkable, for while ordinary Americans 100 years ago may have been interested in the acquisition of culture, more often than not they regarded it as the moral equivalent of taking castor oil — not especially pleasant, but good for you. The magic of the Chautauqua was in the way it helped the medicine go down.

The distinctive format of the Chautauqua movement drew its inspiration from two popular 19th century institutions, the lecture lyceum and the religious camp meeting. Its appeal to the American popular imagination lay in the Chautauqua's special blend of entertainment and education, of socializing and seriousness, of leisure and self-improvement. Like the religious camp meeting, the Chautauqua was a family affair, held out of doors and in a natural, non-urban setting; like the lyceum, its greatest attractions were lecturers of every persuasion, all presenting serious matter in a palatable and often entertaining form. Within a very few years of its inception in the 1870s, the experiment at Lake Chautauqua was being repeated nationwide, and circuits were formed for the orderly scheduling and sharing of talent. One of the most successful of all turn-of-the-century Chautauquas was located in the heart of the Illinois Lincoln country near Petersburg and was known as the Old Salem Chautauqua.

Named for its proximity to the village where Abraham Lincoln lived from 1831 to 1837, the Old Salem Chautauqua on the banks of the Sangamon River drew heavily from central Illinois, but it was sufficiently well-run and enticingly located to become a prime summertime family attraction for the entire Midwest. According to its historians, Katherine Miller and Raymond Montgomery (*A Chautauqua To Remember: The Story of Old Salem*, 1987), the Old Salem Chautauqua in its prime was "thought to be the largest Chautauqua West of the Allegheny Mountains." All the great Chautauqua figures appeared on the stage of the auditorium at Old Salem — from William Randolph Hearst and Booker T. Washington to the most acclaimed speaker of his day, William Jennings Bryan, who had graduated from nearby Illinois College in Jacksonville. Along with Bible lessons and classes in all manner of subjects, there was a constant procession of talented

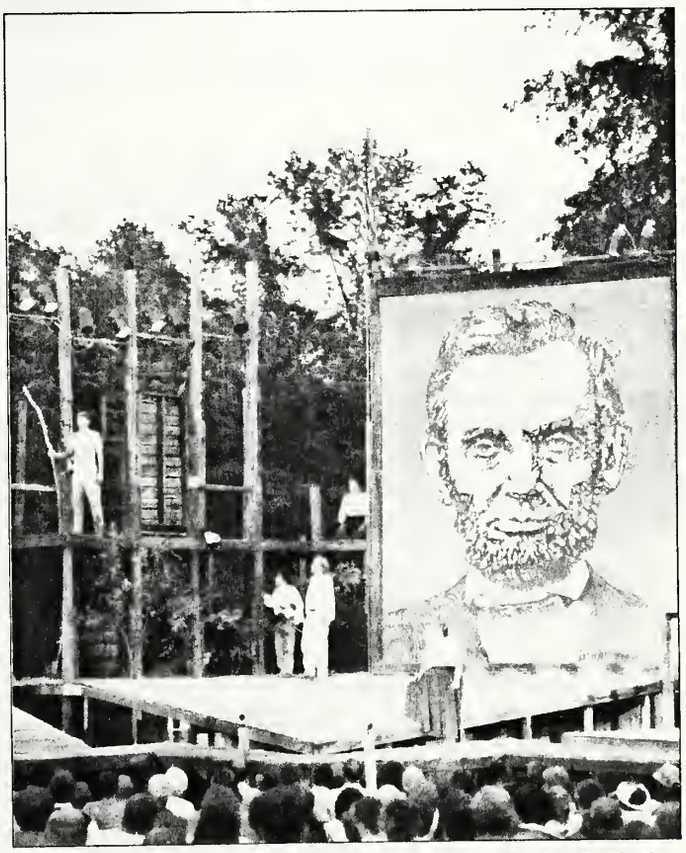


Photo courtesy of The Great American People Show

The Great American People Show players present their 1990 production of "Your Obedient Servant, A. Lincoln" at New Salem State Park in Petersburg.

preachers, teachers, professors and scientists purveying information on every imaginable topic. In addition the campers and cottagers who gathered by the thousands were regularly treated to the kind of entertaining cultural fare that was in short supply in the towns and cities of the region, such as classical music, opera and Shakespearian plays. Chautauqua came to be a greatly anticipated feature of family life, for the atmosphere of the campground was festive and inviting, and opportunities abounded for socializing and fun.

The Chautauqua movement eventually yielded to competition from the movies and the radio, as well as to the greatly enhanced mobility afforded the family of ordinary means by the automobile. The Old Salem Chautauqua lasted longer than most, finally meeting its demise in 1942 because of the privations of World War II. But the spirit of Chautauqua — the impulse to combine family summer outings with cultural activity — is still very much alive and in evidence in downstate Illinois.



Photo by Peter Guither

The 1990 Illinois Shakespeare Festival performers present Richard Sheridan's "The Rivals" on the grounds of Ewing Manor in Bloomington.

A prime instance of thriving contemporary Chautauqua can be sampled only a few miles from the site of the Old Salem Chautauqua at Lincoln's New Salem State Park. Though the converging railroads that brought trainloads of visitors to Petersburg and old Salem no longer run, every summer tens of thousands of Americans make the pilgrimage by automobile to a reconstruction of historic New Salem, the obscure and short-lived log village that was the proving ground of Abraham Lincoln's early life. Arriving here at the age of 22, Lincoln struggled to make a living by an assortment of jobs and to repair the deficiencies in his education. Simply to tour the restored village is itself a lesson in American history, presenting, as it does, in dramatic and visual terms the physical conditions of pioneer life. Incorporating an excellent modern campground, Lincoln's new Salem State Park has proved a popular attraction for families in search of an engaging outdoor experience for more than a half century.

But for the last 15 years, New Salem has offered its summer visitors an added attraction in the way of entertainment and cultural enrichment that is strongly reminiscent of the old-time Chautauqua. Described in a park brochure as "a summer stock theatrical troupe featuring live, historically based performances," The Great American People Show (GAPS) performs nightly except on Mondays, from a stage in Kelso Hollow, a natural amphitheater that adjoins the reconstructed village. Its principal production, "Your Obedient Servant, A. Lincoln," was written expressly for this setting by a professor of theater at the University of Illinois, John Ahart, and is performed by a company of actors under his direction. The show aims at bringing Abraham Lincoln and his world to life, not so much by means of realistic sets and costumes as by spirited acting and dedication to an educational and inspirational purpose. GAPS has been consistently popular with New Salem visitors and regional audiences, and the success of its educational mission has been well recognized. It regularly receives support from the Illinois State Humanities Council, and in a speech honoring the work of such councils, GAPS was singled out by U.S. Sen. Paul Simon as a "paradigmatic project" that not only teaches by entertaining but inspires its audiences to learn.

Less than 100 miles away from New Salem at Bloomington is another prime example of the new Chautauqua. This attractive central Illinois town was on the judicial circuit that Abraham Lincoln followed while prac-



Great American People Show
at New Salem State Park in Petersburg
June 22-August 24
Curtain at 8 p.m. except Monday
Individual tickets $8, seniors/students $6.50; group rates arranged by phone (217) 632-7755



Illinois Shakespeare Festival
at Ewing manor in Bloomington
- "Othello" on July 3, 7, 10, 13, 18, 21, 27 and 30; August 2
- "The Taming of the Shrew" on July 2, 5, 11, 14, 17, 19, 23, 25, 28 and 31; August 3
- "Antony and Cleopatra" on July 6, 9, 12, 16, 20, 24 and 26; August 1 and 4

Curtain at 8 p.m. except Monday
Individual tickets from $8-$15, season tickets $19-$34
Box office telephone: (309) 438-2535



Photo courtesy of The World Affairs Forum at Mount Vernon

At the 1989 World Affairs Forum in Mount Vernon, from left: Despo Pavledes, 1989 World Affairs Forum chairman for Greece; Hank Hannah, activities chairman for Nigeria; and Hamzat Ahmadu, ambassador from Nigeria.

ticing law. His fellow lawyers remembered that one of Lincoln's favorite diversions on the circuit was reading Shakespeare, whose work he nearly always carried with him. That familiarity with Shakespeare was, for Lincoln, no mere cultural affectation, and it became evident in the way he turned to Shakespeare's tragedies in the darkest hours of the Civil War. Lincoln's affinity for Shakespeare has been mirrored in our own time by the rising popularity of Shakespearian theater, and for more than a dozen summers Bloomington has hosted the lively and successful Illinois Shakespeare Festival.

Like the Great American People Show, the Illinois Shakespeare Festival was founded by a professor of theater, Cal Pritner of Illinois State University in Bloomington, who served as its artistic director until his retirement in 1990. And like GAPS, it has been fostered and carried forward not simply as a seasonal activity but as something of a cause, both educational and artistic. Summer Shakespeare festivals, though not common, are by no means novel, and the Bloomington festival has had viable models to follow. But its great and ever-present challenge is the one faced by the Chautauqua movement, namely, finding a way to bring the bard to a popular and diverse audience.

The first element in the original Chautauqua equation was an attractive and congenial setting, and this appears to be a key to the success of the Illinois Shakespeare Festival. First recognized by Pritner as an ideal location for an outdoor artistic enterprise, the setting for the festival is the beautifully landscaped grounds of Ewing Manor, the imposing Tudor-style "seat" of a local philanthropic family. The chance to explore these interesting grounds and to picnic on the lawn before the show has definitely been part of the allure for the audiences since the festival's inception in 1978. The festival takes care to reinforce and enrich its productions with such extras as costumed madrigal singers, lectures on the plays prior to performance and related exhibits in the Ewing Manor museum.

A final example of contemporary Chautauqua in downstate Illinois is to be found at Mount Vernon, which hosts a unique and astonishingly ambitious World Affairs Forum each autumn. A persistent idea of the original Chautauqua movement was to increase the ordinary American's familiarity with other countries and cultures, and the people of Mount Vernon have taken up precisely this task on a communitywide basis. Begun in 1981 in connection with the honoring of a Mount Vernon native, Jeanne Kirkpatrick, the United States representative to the U.N. from 1981 to 1985, the World Affairs Forum focuses on a different country every year: for example, Australia in 1988, Greece in 1989 and Nigeria in 1990. Its aim is to promote activities that will help familiarize the townspeople and visitors with various aspects of the focal country and to involve as much of the community as possible, from service clubs and local schools to senior citizens' centers. For six weeks in early fall this year, Mount Vernon will become the site of almost daily lectures, concerts and other programs designed to promote greater understanding of the peoples and cultures of Brazil.

. . . the spirit of Chautauqua — the impulse to combine family summer outings with cultural activity . . .

The original Chautauqua functioned by drawing large numbers of people to a common outdoor site, but its modern counterpart is conspicuously decentralized and may appear almost anywhere. Downstate Illinois is, in fact, rich in Chautauqua-type attractions which offer opportunities for families to mix travel, outdoor activities and cultural discovery. Besides New Salem, Bloomington and Mount Vernon, there is the restored Mormon city at Nauvoo, where the prophet Joseph Smith resided in the 1840s; or Bishop Hill, the site of the utopian experiment a few years later led by the Swedish charismatic, Erik Jansson; or the recently established Heritage America Festival at Cahokia, featuring arts, crafts and activities of the Mississippian and other Native American cultures (scheduled for September 27-29 in 1991). The list is surprisingly long and still growing. Here in the land of Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson's cherished ideal of an enlightened citizenry annually reasserts itself and finds new expression in an old form — Chautauqua.□

Douglas L. Wilson, professor of English at Knox College, received his B.A. at Doane College and his Ph.D at the University of Pennsylvania. Director of the Seymour Library at Knox College since 1972, he recently published an essay on Jefferson and Lincoln in Atlantic Monthly *and delivered a paper at the 1991 Lincoln Symposium in Springfield.*



LINCOLN AT NEW SALEM

Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site, about 2 miles south of Petersburg and about 20 miles northwest of Springfield, is a reconstruction of the village where Abraham Lincoln spent his early adulthood. The six years Lincoln spent in New Salem formed a turning point in his career. From the gangling youngster who came to the village in 1831 with no definite objectives, he became a man of purpose as he embarked upon a career of law and statesmanship.

Although he never owned a home here, Lincoln was engaged in a variety of activities while he was at New Salem. He clerked in a store, chopped wood, enlisted in the Black Hawk War, served as postmaster and deputy surveyor, failed in business, and was elected to the Illinois General Assembly in 1834 after an unsuccessful try in 1832.

The six years that Lincoln spent in New Salem almost completely encompass the town's brief history. The community was thriving when Lincoln settled here in 1831, but growth stalled before his 1837 move to Springfield to practice law. The 1839 establishment of the county seat at Petersburg hastened New Salem's decline.

THE RECONSTRUCTION OF NEW SALEM

Interest in the site of the village of New Salem was kept alive for years by the Old Salem Chautauqua Association, whose summer meetings attracted many individuals to the area. The first step toward reconstruction was taken in 1906, when the Chautauqua Association interested newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst in the site. Hearst, who had been lecturing to the Association, agreed to purchase the site and convey it in trust to them. In 1917 the Old Salem Lincoln League was formed to carry on research and keep alive interest in the site.

On April 3, 1919, the Chautauqua Association conveyed the site to the State of Illinois. By that time the Old Salem Lincoln League had erected several log buildings, built a road, and marked other sites. Those buildings slowly deteriorated and were subsequently replaced by the state.

In 1931 the state legislature appropriated $50,000 for "Permanent Improvements" at

the site. By November 1932 the English Brothers, general contractors from Champaign, Illinois, were awarded a contract to construct twelve log buildings at the site. Groundbreaking ceremonies were conducted on November 17, 1932, at the site of Second Berry-Lincoln Store. The Civilian Conservation Coprs continued the reconstruction efforts. Some of the CCC contributions include the Rutledge-Camron Saw and Grist Mill, the Hill Carding Mill, the Miller Blacksmith Shop, and the Church and School House. In addition to the reconstructions, many of the present-day public and service facilities were built by the CCC.

The Onstot Cooper Shop is the only original building at the site. It was found in Petersburg by the Old Salem Lincoln League and moved to the site in 1922. In addition, the Lincoln League undertook a drive to secure furnishings for the homes and shops. Within a short while, more than 900 period articles had been donated, a number of which had belonged to New Salem residents. Further research has been conducted since the initial reconstruction of the 1930s and 1940s. Periodic archaeology and construction of outbuildings have marked the reconstruction efforts. Additional buildings, gardens, and other physical changes will be made as the history and appearance of New Salem are further documented.

PERIOD FURNISHINGS

Twelve log houses, the Rutledge Tavern, ten workshops, stores, mills, and a school where church services were held have been reproduced and furnished as they might have been in the 1830s. The furnishings, including many articles actually used by the New Salem people of Lincoln's time and others dating back to the same time period, were assembled and donated to the state by the Old Salem Lincoln League. The collection includes such early-nineteenth-century articles as wheat cradles, candle molds, cord beds, flax hackles, wool cards, dough and cornmeal chests, and early American pewter.

FACILITIES

Visitor Center

The Visitor Center houses an auditorium, museum, exhibits, restrooms, and administrative offices. A ten-minute orientation film is offered in the auditorium. Exhibits focus on New Salem and its most famous resident, Abraham Lincoln. Featured are a statue of Lincoln, murals, original Lincoln items, and a unique "time walk" that leads visitors through the village's history.

Restaurant

Family dining and large group banquet rooms are available at New Salem's Baby Bull's Family Dining, across from the park entrance. The restaurant is open daily from 11 A.M. to 9 P.M., Sunday 9 A.M. to 9 P.M. Limited hours in winter. Phone: 217/632-2232.

Picnicking

There are several designated picnic areas with water, tables, and firegrates.

Camping

Areas for both tents and trailers are available with showers, electrical hookups, and a sanitary station. All campers must obtain a permit from the site staff. Group camping is available; groups of more than 25 must have advance permission to enter the site. Restrooms and showers are closed from December 1 through April 1 each year.

McDonald's Express and Lincoln League Souvenir Shop

A McDonald's fast-food restaurant, a bookstore, and a souvenir shop are located near the visitor center. A variety of souvenirs, gifts, postcards, and books are available. Closed during the winter months. Phone 217/632-2277.

Talisman River Boat Trip

The *Talisman* recalls the steamboat that traveled the Sangamon River in Lincoln's day. The steamboat leaves the site on hourly trips each day except Mondays during the summer months. There are weekend trips from April thru October, depending on the water level of the river. Phone 217/632-7681.

Outdoor Theater

A variety of live productions are featured from mid-June through late August. For information and reservations, call 217/632-5440 or 800/710-9290, or contact Theater in the Park, Route 1, Box 244A, Petersburg, Illinois 62675.

Please

This area is for all to enjoy, so help keep it clean. Put all litter in the nearest available trash container. No flowers, plants, shrubs, or trees may be removed or damaged. **PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH OR FEED THE ANIMALS! CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY ADULTS. ALL PETS MUST BE LEASHED.**

Lincoln League Museum Store

The shop, a stone structure not part of the original village, houses the Lincoln League Museum Store, which sells nineteenth-century craft reproductions by Illinois artisans.

THE VILLAGE

Henry Onstot Residence



Onstot, a native of Kentucky, was the community cooper. He built his first home and shop in the eastern portion of the town upon his arrival at New Salem about 1830. From 1833 to 1835 the Onstots lived at the tavern, which they operated after the Rutledges move to Sandridge. Onstot built a home on the village's west end in

1835. He lived there until 1840, when he moved to Petersburg and re-erected his home and cooper shop on Main Street.

Henry Onstot Cooper Shop



The cooper was a very important part of the village economy. Besides making buckets and tubs for domestic use, he also made barrels. Almost all produce was shipped in barrels at that time-wet barrels for transporting whiskey or meat products in brine and dry barrels for flour. Onstot charged from 40 cents for a flour barrel to $1 for a pork barrel. Wash tubs and well buckets were $1.50 each. In 1922 this building was located in Petersburg and returned to the site. This shop is the only original building left from New Salem.

Trent Brothers Residence



On August 27, 1832, Alexander Trent bought a lot where he and his brother Martin built a house for their families. Alex was a corporal in Lincoln's company during the Black Hawk War. In the autumn of 1832, he bought William Clary's store and was issued a tavern license that December. On June 6, 1833, Alex was issued a license to operate the New Salem ferry. The rates, fixed by law, were the same as William Clary had charged. Trent renewed his license once on March 6, 1834, but then sold the enterprise to Jacob and Hardin Bale.

Schoolhouse and Church



Mentor Graham moved to this area in 1826 and built a brick house on his farm one mile west of here. He first taught school in a log church on the Felix Green farm. After New Salem was laid out in 1828, the growing community erected a round-log school house. Graham moved his school to the building, originally located about a half-mile southwest of this location. He ran a subscription school, charging from 30 cents to 85 cents per month depending on the age of the child. Commonly called a "blab" school, the students learned by repeating their lesson out loud, over and over. The school was occasionally used as a church on Sundays.

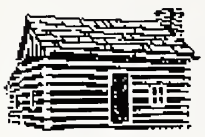
Isaac Gulihur Residence



Isaac Gulihur was born in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, on June 23, 1815. While living at New Salem he married Isaac Burner's daughter, Elizabeth, built a residence, and had one son. Gulihur served with Lincoln during the Black Hawk War. Following his discharge, he ran for coroner in the election of August 11, 1832, and lost. The Gulihurs left New Salem in late 1834 and moved to Knox County, Illinois, where they remained the rest of their lives. The property had two separate cellars; the north cellar had an outside entrance.

There was also a root cellar and a well.

Robert Johnston Residence



Johnston and his family moved to New Salem and built a residence in 1832. He was a wheelwright, woodworker, and cabinet maker who also repaired furnishings and implements for the local residents and made wooden gears for the two mills in town. The Johnstons were Cumberland Presbyterians and regularly attended the Rock Creek camp meetings conducted by Rev. John M. Berry. Mrs. Johnston, who attended many such camp meetings, often experienced a common "spiritual exercise" called the "the shakes," in which one's body trembled violently.

Isaac Burner Residence



Burner was born in Kentucky on September 24, 1784. Isaac, his wife Susan, and his family moved in October 1832 to New Salem, where he bought two lots for $10 and erected a residence. His daughter, Elizabeth, married Isaac Gulihur, whose home site is to the west of here. Isaac's son, Daniel Green Burner, for a while worked at the second Berry-Lincoln Store. The Burner family left New Salem in 1835 when they moved to the country about six miles south of Knoxville, Illinois. A common feature of early log homes was the sleeping loft, like the one seen here.

First Berry-Lincoln Store



James and Rowan Herndon had arrived at New Salem by the spring of 1831. They built a store and opened it that fall. In the summer of 1832, James sold his interest in the store to William Berry. Rowan became dissatisfied with Berry and later that same year sold his interest to Lincoln for a promissory note. Stores were popular gathering places. Not only was merchandise bought, but stories were swapped and anything from weather to politics discussed. When a larger store and better stock of goods became available across the street, Berry and Lincoln recognized its value and moved there in mid-January 1833.

Lukins-Ferguson Residence



Peter Lukins, a former Kentuckian and shoemaker who made and repaired a variety of leather goods, built a home and shop in 1831. In 1832 Lukins and George Warburton left New Salem to develop nearby Petersburg, in which they had invested. Peter Lukins won the card game with Warburton to determine the name of Petersburg, but soon sold his interest to John Taylor. Alexander Ferguson moved into Lukins' house and took up leather work in 1832. He was a man of little education and not the most skilled leather worker. Ferguson moved from New Salem in 1840 when he bought a nearby farm from Samuel Hill.

Dr. John Allen Residence



Dr. Allen was born on March 30, 1801, near Chelsea, Vermont. He received his medical degree from Dartmouth Medical School in 1828 and went west to set up his practice. On August 13, 1831, he purchased lots three and four from James Pantier and had his home constructed. By December 1831 Dr. Allen had organized a temperance society and held meetings at his home. He was also a participant in the local debating society and an active member of the Presbyterian Church. He married Mary E. Moore on March 27, 1834. Mary died two years later. By 1840 Dr. Allen remarried, moved to Petersburg, and conducted a prosperous business until he died on April 1, 1863.

New Salem (Rutledge) Tavern



James Rutledge, a native South Carolinian who cofounded New Salem with John Camron, erected a building as a residence in 1828. Once New Salem began to prosper, he converted it to an inn or tavern where travelers could enjoy a meal and bed. By law, tavern rates were fixed at 37-1/2 cents per day for a meal and overnight stay. The Rutledge family left New Salem in early 1833. Nelson Alley purchased the tavern and rented it to Henry Onstot and later Michael Keltner. In 1837 Alley sold it to Jacob Bale, who by this time operated both the carding mill and the saw and grist mill. The Bales used it as a residence for many years. By 1880 it had decayed to ruin.

Lincoln League Museum Store



The shop, a stone building not part of the original village, sells nineteenth-century craft items produced by Illinois artisans. Sales help to support the programs of Lincoln's New Salem.

John Rowan Herndon Residence



Herndon had married Mentor Graham's sister, Elizabeth, in Kentucky in 1827. By the spring of 1831, they were living at New Salem, where Rowan and his brother James built a log residence and later in the fall built a store. In the summer of 1832, James sold his half-interest in the store to William Berry and moved away. Rowan, not liking Berry for a partner, sold his half-interest to Abraham Lincoln. On January 18, 1833, Rowan accidentally shot and killed his wife. Soon afterward he moved to Island Grove Township in Sangamon County.

Denton Offutt Store



Offutt first employed Abraham Lincoln in the spring of 1831 to take his goods by flatboat from Springfield to New Orleans. Due to a delay in crossing the mill dam, Offutt and Lincoln first visited New Salem. Offutt decided to open a store here and he employed Lincoln to run it. On July 8, 1831, Offutt was licensed to retail at New Salem. It was here that Lincoln received his first exposure to the business of merchandising. Within a year, Offutt's enterprises had failed. He left New Salem for Kentucky to help his brother raise horses.

William Clary's Store



Clary's store was probably one of the earlier structures built at New Salem. It catered to those waiting for products from the mill and to the "Clary's Grove Boys." The store sold liquor as its main stock in trade, selling brandy, gin, wine, rum, and whiskey for 12 cents to 25 cents per half-pint. Clary also established a ferry, charging from 3 cents per head of cattle to 50 cents for a team and wagon. Clary, a Southerner, left for Texas by 1833, leaving the store to Alex Trent in December 1832 and the ferry to James Richardson in March 1831. Since the rougher element frequented this part of town, sports like gander pulls, cock fights, and wrestling were held here.

Second Berry-Lincoln Store



John McNamar, it is believed, had a building-probably the village's first-constructed here in 1829. It is remembered as the town's only frame structure. McNamar and Samuel Hill, who became postmaster on December 25, 1829, operated a store here until 1831. They sold it to Henry Sinco, who rented the store to the Chrisman brothers. William Greene later bought the building and rented it to Reuben Radford. Greene eventually purchased Radford's goods and sold them to William Berry and Abraham Lincoln, whose shop here "winked out." Later, John McNamar and silent partner Dr. John Allen operated a store here until the two moved the business to Petersburg in 1837.

Archaeology Walk

In 1995 archaeologists discovered the remains of two previously unknown house sites and a road that once crossed the hilltop. On-site displays describe the remains found there, and a remnant of the early road can be seen at the end of the trail.

Hill-McNeil Store



Samuel Hill constructed a store building on this lot, which was purchased in January 1832. The partnership with John McNamar, who took the alias "McNeil" to disguise his identity until he could make a fortune and bring his family to Illinois, was dissolved eight months later. Mail deliveries were probably made here until May 7, 1833, when Abraham Lincoln, who operated a store next door, was named postmaster. Hill moved in 1839 to Petersburg, where he continued his

successful business ventures.

Samuel Hill Residence



Hill was born in New Jersey in 1800 and migrated to Cincinnati, Ohio, at age 20. He then came to New Salem in 1829 where he started a store in partnership with John McNamar. Hill was a small slender man with an irascible temperament but usually gallant to the ladies. After the dissolution of his partnership in 1832, Hill expanded his investments by erecting a carding mill in the spring of 1835. That July, Hill married Parthena Nance from nearby Farmer's Point. They had one child, John, born at New Salem in September 1839. In 1837 Hill sold his carding mill to Hardin Bale and by 1840 had moved his family and store to Petersburg.

Dr. Francis Regnier Office



It was here in late 1831 that Henry Sinco erected a residence. On October 10, 1832, Dr. Francis Regnier purchased the property from Sinco and set up his practice. Regnier came to Illinois from Marietta, Ohio, where at 20 he was licensed to practice medicine and surgery on May 27, 1827. In August 1834, Dr. Regnier married Sophia Ann Goldsmith and moved to nearby Clary's Grove. He apparently kept the building until the late 1830s for use as an office. Regnier later moved to Petersburg, where he died in 1859.

New Salem Carding Mill and Wool House



On April 24, 1835, Samuel Hill advertised in the *Sangamo Journal* that he would commence operation of his carding mill on May 1. "The machines are nearly new and in first rate order, and I do not hesitate to say, the best work will be done. Just bring your wool in good order and there will be no mistake." Hardin Bale ran the mill for Hill and bought it in 1837. Bale later moved it to Petersburg. The double carder is typical of the period. The mill was run by two oxen treading the inclined wheel. Patrons could pay in cash, or a toll was taken.

Martin Waddell Residence



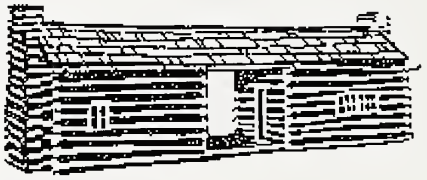
Waddell and his family arrived at New Salem and built their residence in 1832. Waddell was a hatter who made rabbit fur hats for 50 cents, coonskin hats for $2, and wool felt hats. The kettle in front of his residence was used by Martin Waddell to make felt. Waddell had a wife, a son, and several daughters to support. Considering the number of children he had, one room might have served as both a shop and a bedroom. The Waddell family left New Salem by 1838.

Miller Blacksmith Shop



Joshua Miller the village and community blacksmith, carried on a flourishing business. He shod horses, furnished iron parts for wagons and farming implements, and did general metal work for the community. The ring of his anvil was a familiar sound in New Salem and was heard for many hours each day. This reconstruction was made with the assistance of the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. The tools, forge, and hand bellows have all seen many years of service and are the type originally used by Miller.

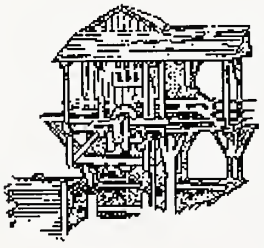
Joshua A. Miller and John (Jack) H. Kelso Residence



Miller and his brother-in-law Jack Kelso came with their families to New Salem. On November 17, 1832, Miller purchased two lots from John Camron for $25, and lived here with his wife Nancy and their children, Caleb and Levicy. His home was headquarters for Baptist preachers who came to the neighborhood.

Kelso and his wife lived with the Millers. Kelso and Miller had married the Turner sisters before coming to New Salem from Kentucky. Due to their relationship and family origins, a choice of this "dogtrot" style of home would have been understandable. The open area was usually used for eating or as a sitting area away from the heat. Kelso was a hunter, fisherman, and "jack of all trades." He was able to supply all the money he needed by doing odd jobs, in addition to trapping and foraging.

New Salem Saw and Grist Mill



In 1828 John M. Camron purchased the property where New Salem was later to be laid out. In that same year Camron and his uncle, James Rutledge, petitioned the state legislature for, and received, permission to dam the Sangamon River for the purpose of powering the mill. By the next year the mill was running. On September 29, 1832, Camron offered the mill for sale. Jacob Bale bought it and operated it with his son Hardin until 1844, when Jacob died. It was then bought by Jacob's brother Abraham and operated until 1853, when the mill was torn down and replaced with another. In 1940 the Civilian Conservation Corps reconstructed the Rutledge-Camron Saw and Grist Mill. By 1940 the Sangamon River had changed course, so it was necessary to power the mill from a mill pond.

LINCOLN'S NEW SALEM STATE HISTORIC SITE

Hours of Operation: New Salem is open daily to the public from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. from early March to late October. Open 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. the remainder of the year. The site is closed most state holidays in the fall and winter. Please contact the site in

advance for additional information on hours and holiday closings.

Return to State of Illinois Home Page

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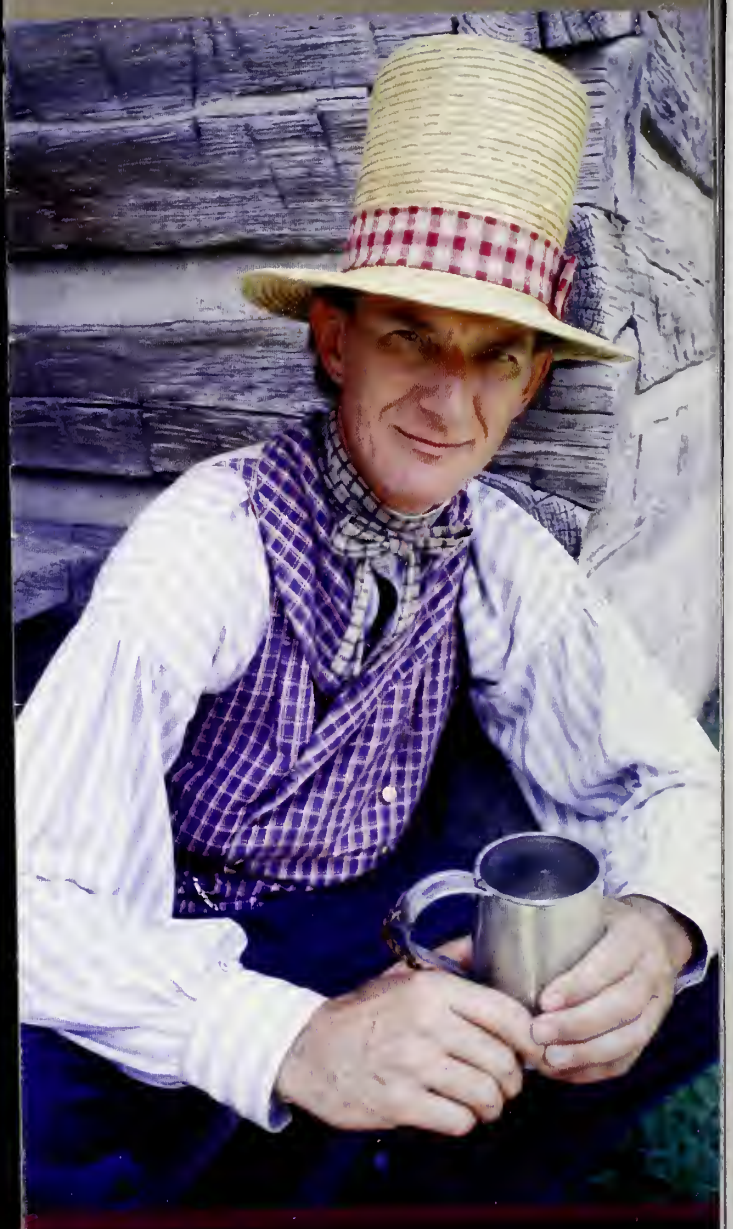
FOR YOUR INFORMATION ...
For more details and specific regulations concerning this site, contact:

Lincoln's New Salem
R.R. 1, Box 244A
Petersburg, Illinois 62675
Phone 217/632-4000

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

500 East Madison
Springfield, Illinois 62701
Phone: 217/785-7930
Fax: 217/524-7525

Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site



ILLINOIS
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
AGENCY

Digging into Abe's past

Archaeologists look for artifacts at New Salem

By ANN GORMAN
CORRESPONDENT

Published Sunday, April 30, 2006

PETERSBURG - Archaeologists searching for more evidence of the first building Abraham Lincoln owned have unearthed a slate pencil, a hand-forged iron chain link, window and bottle glass, a shell button, pottery fragments and other items at Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site.

"Finding that slate pencil was a real treat. It's as close as we're going to get to a Lincoln artifact," said Robert Mazrim, director of the Sangamo Archaeological Center in Elkhart.

Lincoln arrived at New Salem by flatboat in 1831, working first as a clerk in Offutt's shop. He later operated a store with William Berry and served as a postmaster and deputy surveyor before moving to Springfield to practice law. The log village was reconstructed in the 1930s and now is administered by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

Thomas Schwartz, interim director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, recently discovered an 1830s document that revealed Lincoln owned a half interest in two lots and a structure in the frontier settlement.

Schwartz said the building would have been the first Lincoln ever owned, and the archaeological investigation "will give us more information about this important, previously unknown chapter of Lincoln's life."

Mazrim, four crew members and a small group of volunteers have been at the site for about six weeks. The group, after studying archaeological and written records and resurveying, is focusing on the area at the east end of the village that encompasses the rebuilt Offutt Store and the William Clary grocery.

Offutt opened his business in July 1831, but his enterprises failed within a year, and he left for Kentucky. It's believed that Lincoln and Charles Maltby, another clerk at the store, may have purchased Offutt's property in 1832.

Lincoln and Maltby apparently planned to operate a warehouse at New Salem that would serve as a distribution and shipping point for steamboats on the nearby Sangamon River. However, the shallow river halted steamboat travel in the area, and the Black Hawk War took Lincoln from the project in the summer of 1832.

When he returned, Lincoln re-entered the retail business, possibly using the Offutt building. Three years later, he still owned the property, which, according to Schwartz, may have served multiple purposes, including as a storage area, residence or an office for Lincoln's surveying work.

Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site



ILLINOIS
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
AGENCY

Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site is a reconstruction of the village where Abraham Lincoln spent his early adulthood. The six years Lincoln spent at New Salem formed a turning point in his career. From the gangling young man who came to the village in 1831 with no definite objectives, he became a man of purpose as he embarked upon a career of law and statesmanship.





Abraham Lincoln engaged in a variety of activities while at New Salem. He clerked in a store, split rails, enlisted in the Black Hawk War, served as postmaster and deputy surveyor, failed in business, and was elected to the Illinois General Assembly in 1834 and 1836 after an unsuccessful try in 1832.

The six years that Lincoln spent at New Salem almost completely encompass the town's brief history. The community was thriving when Lincoln settled here in 1831, but growth stalled before his 1837 move to Springfield to practice law. The 1839 establishment of the county seat at Petersburg hastened New Salem's decline.



The Reconstruction of New Salem

Interest in the site of the village of New Salem was kept alive for years by the Old Salem Chautauqua Association, whose summer meetings attracted many individuals to the area. The first step toward reconstruction was taken in 1906, when the Chautauqua Association interested newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst in the site. Hearst, who had been lecturing to the Association, agreed to purchase the site and convey it in trust to them. In 1917 the Old Salem Lincoln League was formed to carry on research and keep alive interest in the site.

On May 22, 1919, the Chautauqua Association conveyed the site to the State of Illinois. By that time, the Old Salem Lincoln League had erected several log buildings, built a road, and marked other sites. Those buildings slowly deteriorated and were subsequently replaced by the state.

Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site is for all to enjoy
the nearest trash container. Please do not pick the flowers, or
Please do not touch or feed the animals. Children must be acc



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Period Furnishings

Twelve log houses, the Rutledge Tavern, ten workshops, stores, mills, and a school where church services were held have been reproduced and furnished as they might have been in the 1830s. In the 1930s, the Lincoln League undertook a drive to secure furnishings for the homes and shops. Within a short while, more than 900 period articles had been donated, a number of which had belonged to New Salem residents. The collection includes such early-nineteenth-century articles as wheat cradles, candle molds, cord beds, flax hackles, wool cards, dough and cornmeal chests, and early American pewter.

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be accompanied by an adult. All pets must be on a leash.

Facilities

Visitor Center The Visitor Center houses an auditorium, museum, exhibits, restrooms, and administrative offices. An 18-minute orientation film is offered in the auditorium. Exhibits focus on New Salem and its most famous resident, Abraham Lincoln. Featured are a statue of Lincoln, murals, and original Lincoln items.

Restaurant Family dining and large group banquet rooms are available at the New Salem Restaurant, across from the park entrance. Phone 217.632.4400.

Picnic Facilities There are several designated picnic areas with water, tables and fire grates.



Camping Areas for both tents and trailers are available with showers, electrical hookups, and a sanitary station. All campers must obtain a permit from the site staff; group camping is available. Restrooms and shower facilities are closed from December 1 through April 1 each year.

New Salem Deli & Pizzeria and Lincoln League Souvenir Shop A quick bite as well as books, gifts, and souvenirs are available in this facility near the Visitor Center. Closed during the winter months. 217.632.2277

Kelso Hollow Theater A variety of live productions are featured from June through August. For more information or reservations, call 217.632.5440 or toll-free at 800.710.9290, or contact Theatre in the Park, 15588 History Lane, Petersburg, IL 62675.

Lincoln League Museum Store This shop, a stone structure not part of the original village, houses the Lincoln League Museum Store. The shop features a variety of nineteenth-century craft reproductions by Illinois artisans.



Walk into the Past



1 Henry Onstot Residence

Onstot, a native of Kentucky, was the community cooper. He built his first home and shop in the eastern portion of the town upon his arrival at New Salem about 1830. From 1833 to 1835 the Onstots lived at the tavern, which they operated after the Rutledges moved to Sandridge. Onstot built a home on the village's west end in 1835. He lived there until 1840, when he moved to Petersburg and re-erected his home and cooper shop on Main Street.



2 Henry Onstot Cooper Shop

The cooper was a very important part of the village economy, making buckets, tubs, and barrels. Almost all produce was shipped in barrels – wet barrels for transporting whiskey or meat products in brine and dry barrels for flour. Onstot charged from 40¢ for a flour barrel to $1 for a meat barrel. Wash tubs and well buckets cost $1.50 each. In 1922 this building was located in Petersburg, and was returned to the site. This shop is the only building left from the original New Salem.



3 Trent Brothers Residence

On August 27, 1832, Alexander Trent bought a lot where he and his brother Martin built a house for their families. Alex was a corporal in Lincoln's company during the Black Hawk War. In the autumn of 1832, he bought William Clary's store and was issued a tavern license in December. Alex was issued a license to operate the New Salem ferry on the Sangamon River and the rates, fixed by law, were the same as William Clary had charged. Trent renewed his license once but then sold the enterprise to Jacob and Hardin Bale.



4 Joshua A. Miller and John (Jack) H. Kelso Residence

Miller and his brother-in-law Jack Kelso came with their families to New Salem. On November 17, 1832, Miller purchased two lots from John Camron for $25, and lived there with his wife Nancy and their children, four or five of whom were born at New Salem. His home was headquarters for Baptist preachers who came to the neighborhood.

Kelso and his wife lived with the Millers. Kelso and Miller had married the Turner sisters before coming to New Salem from Kentucky. Due to their relationship and family origins, this building was a "dogtrot" style of home. The open area was used for eating or as a sitting area away from the heat. Kelso was a hunter, fisherman, and "jack of all trades." He was able to supply all the money he needed by doing odd jobs, in addition to trapping and foraging.



5 Joshua Miller Blacksmith Shop

Joshua Miller, the village and community blacksmith, carried on a flourishing business. He shod horses, furnished iron parts for wagons and farming implements, and did general metal work for the community. The ring of his anvil was a familiar sound in New Salem and was heard for many hours each day. This reconstruction was made with the assistance of the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. The tools, forge, and hand bellows have all seen many years of service and are the type originally used by Miller.



6 Martin Waddell Residence

Waddell and his family arrived at New Salem and built their residence in 1832. Waddell was a hatter who made rabbit fur hats for 50¢, coonskin hats for $2, and wool felt hats. The kettle in front of his residence was used to make felt. Waddell had a wife, son, and several daughters to support. Considering the number of children he had, one room might have served as both a shop and a bedroom. The Waddell family left New Salem by 1838.



7 Schoolhouse and Church

This building was originally the "Hard Shell" Baptist Church, located about a half-mile southwest of the village. Mentor Graham, the local schoolmaster, received permission to use the church as a school. He circulated a petition for interested parents to sign up their children. He taught reading, writing, and ciphering. Mr. Graham ran a subscription school, and received his pay in goods such as corn, wheat, firewood, chickens, and meat. His school was called a "blab" school, where the students learned by repeating their lesson out loud, over and over. People reported that sound from the school could be heard a mile away. This is the only building that was not originally located in the village. This reconstruction was moved here in 1968.





8 Isaac Gulihur Residence

Isaac Gulihur was born in Hopkinsville, Kentucky on June 23, 1815. While at New Salem, he married Isaac Burner's daughter, Elizabeth, built a residence, and had a son. He served with Lincoln during the Black Hawk War, and following his discharge, lost the election for coroner on August 11, 1832. The Gulihurs moved to Knox County, Illinois in late 1834, where they remained the rest of their lives. The property had two separate cellars; the north cellar had an outside entrance. There was also a root cellar and a well.



9 Robert Johnston Residence

Johnston and his family moved to New Salem and built a residence in 1832. He was a wheelwright, woodworker, and cabinetmaker who also repaired furnishings and implements for local residents and made wooden gears for the town's two mills. The Johnstons were Cumberland Presbyterians and attended the Rock Creek camp meetings conducted by Rev John M. Berry.



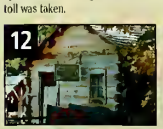
10 Isaac Burner Residence

Burner was born in Kentucky on September 24, 1784. Isaac, his wife Susan, and their family moved to New Salem circa 1829, where he bought two lots for $10 and erected a residence. His daughter, Elizabeth, married Isaac Gulihur, whose homesite is to the west. Isaac's son, Daniel Green Burner, worked briefly at the Second Berry-Lincoln Store. The Burner family left New Salem in 1835 and moved to the country about six miles south of Knoxville, Illinois. A common feature of early log homes was the sleeping loft, like the one in this home.



11 New Salem Carding Mill and Wool House

On April 24, 1835, Samuel Hill advertised in the *Sangamo Journal* that he would commence operation of his carding mill on May 1. "The machines are nearly new and in first rate order, and I do not hesitate to say, the best work will be done. Just bring your wool in good order and there will be no mistake." Hardin Bale ran the mill for Hill and bought it in 1837. Bale later moved it to Petersburg. The double carder is typical of the period. The mill was run by two oxen treading the inclined wheel. Patrons could pay in cash, or a toll was taken.



12 First Berry-Lincoln Store

James and Rowan Herndon had arrived at New Salem by the spring of 1831. They built a store and opened it that fall. In the summer of 1832, James sold his interest in the store to William Berry. Rowan became dissatisfied with Berry and later that same year sold his interest to Abraham Lincoln for a promissory note. Stores were popular gathering places. Not only was merchandise bought but stories were swapped and anything from weather to politics discussed. When a larger store and a better stock of goods became available across the street, Berry and Lincoln recognized its value and moved there in mid-January 1833.



13 Dr. Francis Regnier Office

Henry Sance erected a residence here in late 1831. On October 10, 1832, Dr. Francis Regnier purchased the property and set up his practice. Regnier came to Illinois from Marietta, Ohio, where at age 20 he had been licensed to practice medicine and surgery. In August 1834, Dr. Regnier married Sophia Ann Goldsmith and moved to nearby Clary's Grove. He apparently kept the building until the late 1830s for use as an office. Regnier later moved to Petersburg, where he died in 1859.



14 Lukins-Ferguson Residence

Peter Lukins, a former Kentuckian and shoemaker who made and repaired leather goods, built a home and shop in 1831. In 1832, he and George Warburton left New Salem to develop nearby Petersburg, in which they had invested. Lukins won a card game with Warburton to determine the name of Petersburg, but soon sold his interest to John Taylor. Alexander Ferguson moved into Lukins' house and took up leatherwork in 1832. Ferguson moved from New Salem in 1840 when he bought a nearby farm from Samuel Hill.



15 Samuel Hill Residence

Hill was born in New Jersey in 1800 and migrated to Cincinnati, Ohio, at age 20. He came to New Salem in 1829, where he started a store in partnership with John McNamar. Hill was a small slender man with an irascible temperament but usually gallant to the ladies. After the dissolution of the partnership in 1832, Hill expanded his investments by erecting a carding mill in the spring of 1835. That July, Hill married Parthena Nance from nearby Farmer's Point. They had one child, John, born at New Salem in September 1839. In 1837 Hill sold his carding mill to Hardin Bale and by 1840 had moved his family and store to Petersburg.



16 Dr. John Allen Residence

Dr. Allen was born on March 30, 1801, near Chelsea, Vermont. He studied at Dartmouth Medical School in 1828 and went west to set up his practice. On August 18, 1831, he purchased lots three and four from James Panter and had his home constructed. By December 1831 Dr. Allen had organized a temperance society that held meetings at his home. He was also a participant in the local debating society and a member of the Presbyterian church. He married Mary E. Moore on March 27, 1834; she died two years later. By 1840 Dr. Allen had remarried and moved to Petersburg, where he conducted a prosperous business until his death on April 1, 1863.



17 Hill-McNeil Store

Samuel Hill constructed a store on this lot, which was purchased in January 1832. The partnership with John McNamar, who took the alias "McNeil" to disguise his identity until he could make a fortune and bring his family to Illinois, was dissolved eight months later. Mail deliveries were probably made here until May 7, 1833, when Abraham Lincoln, who operated a store next door, was named postmaster. Hill moved in 1839 to Petersburg, where he continued his successful business ventures.



18 Second Berry-Lincoln Store

John McNamar, it is believed, had a building–probably the village's first–constructed here in 1829. It is remembered as the town's only frame structure. McNamar and Samuel Hill, who became postmaster on December 25, 1829, operated a store here until 1831. They sold it to the Chrisman brothers. William Greene later bought the building and rented it to Reuben Radford. Greene eventually purchased Radford's goods and sold them to William Berry and Abraham Lincoln, whose store "winked out." Later, John McNamar and silent partner Dr. John Allen operated a store here until the two moved the business to Petersburg in 1837.



19 New Salem (Rutledge) Tavern

James Rutledge, a native South Carolinian who co-founded New Salem with his nephew John Camron, erected a residence in 1828. Once New Salem began to prosper, he converted it to an inn or tavern where travelers could enjoy a meal and bed. By law, tavern rates were fixed at 37.5¢ per day for a meal and overnight stay. The Rutledge family left New Salem in early 1833. Nelson Alley purchased the tavern and rented it to Henry Onstot and later Michael Keltner. In 1837 Alley sold it to Jacob Bale, who by this time operated both the carding mill and the saw- and gristmill. The Bales used it as a residence for many years. By 1880 it had decayed to ruin.



20 John Rowan Herndon Residence

Herndon married Mentor Graham's sister, Elizabeth, in Kentucky in 1827. By the spring of 1831, they were living at New Salem, where Rowan and his brother James built a log residence and later in the fall built a store. In the summer of 1832, James sold his half-interest in the store to William Berry and moved away. Rowan, not liking Berry for a partner, sold his half-interest to Abraham Lincoln. On January 23, 1833, Rowan accidentally shot and killed his wife. Soon afterward, he moved to Island Grove Township in Sangamon County.



21 Denton Offutt Store

Offutt first employed Abraham Lincoln in the spring of 1831 to take his goods by flatboat from Springfield to New Orleans. Due to a delay in crossing the milldam, Offutt and Lincoln first visited New Salem. Offutt decided to open a store here, and he employed Lincoln to run it. On July 8, 1831, Offutt was licensed to retail at New Salem. It was here that Lincoln received his first exposure to the business of merchandising. Within a year, Offutt's enterprises had failed. He left New Salem for Kentucky to help his brother raise horses. At one time, Lincoln owned a half interest in two town lots and a building in this vicinity. Lincoln may also have acquired a partial ownership of Offutt's Store after 1832.



22 William Clary Store

Clary's store was probably one of the earlier structures built at New Salem. It catered to those waiting for products from the mill and to the "Clary's Grove Boys." The store sold liquor as its main stock-in-trade, selling brandy, gin, wine, rum, and whiskey for 12¢ to 25¢ per half-pint. Clary also established a ferry, charging from 3¢ per head of cattle to 50¢ for a team and wagon. Clary, a southerner, left for Texas by 1833, leaving the store to Alex Trent in December 1832 and the ferry to James Richardson in March 1831. Since the rougher element frequented this part of town, sports like gander pulls, cock fights and wrestling were held here.



23 Archeology Walk

In 1995 archeologists discovered the remains of two previously unknown house sites and a road that once crossed the hilltop. On-site displays describe the remains found there. A remnant of the early road can be seen at the end of the trail.



24 New Salem Saw- and Gristmill

In 1828 John M. Camron purchased the property where New Salem was later to be laid out. In that same year, Camron and his uncle, James Rutledge, petitioned the state legislature for, and received, permission to dam the Sangamon River for the purpose of powering a mill. By the next year the mill was running. On September 29, 1832, Camron offered the mill for sale. Jacob Bale bought the mill and operated it with his son Hardin until 1844, when Jacob died. It was then bought by Jacob's brother Abraham, and operated until 1853, when the mill was torn down and replaced with another. In 1940 the Civilian Conservation Corps reconstructed the mill. In the mid-nineteenth century the Sangamon River ran next to the mill. Since that time, the river has changed its course, and is now a considerable distance to the east.



Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site

Hours of Operation: Beginning on April 16, Lincoln's New Salem is open from 9 am to 5 pm until the day after Labor Day, when the site will then be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. The site is also closed on New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday, Presidents Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

For more information

Lincoln's New Salem
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Petersburg, IL 62675

Phone: 217.632.4000

Email: newsalem@ihpa.state.il.us

www.LincolnsNewSalem.com

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Mazrim believes the Offutt and Clary buildings probably were part of "a business complex that was pioneered by George Warburton (an early New Salem resident), expanded by Offutt and then owned by Maltby and Lincoln."

"We can say pretty confidently that Abraham Lincoln owned this property in 1835," Mazrim said, noting that Maltby left New Salem that year.

Schwartz watched Thursday as the archaeologists carefully excavated using simple hand tools - trowels, whisk brooms and shovels. Pouring bucket after bucket of soil through mesh sieves, they hunted for what could be tiny, but important, pieces of history.

"Good going," Mazrim remarked to the crew member who dug up the chain link, noting that it might have been made years ago at the blacksmith shop down the road.

David Brady, a history buff who works at the Prairie Archives bookstore in Springfield and has joined Mazrim on a dig in southern Illinois, volunteered to sift through the dirt Friday.

"This gives you a different point of view, rather than just reading old documents and newspaper accounts," Brady said.

During the project, Mazrim has learned that there were plaster laths on the interior walls of the Offutt structure.

"It was much less primitive than the (log) replica portrays," he said. "It was much more modern, much more finished, much more formal."

"It's something we'd never even considered here," New Salem site manager David Hedrick said of the finding.

Another major discovery was the scatter of handmade bricks found underground, surrounded by very burnt soil, near the Clary store.

"There's absolutely no archival record or oral tradition that there was any brick-making here," Mazrim said. "As far as who made this brick, we don't really know."

Painstakingly scraping away at the earth, Mazrim unburied what he calls "the earliest park litter," left behind from the 1880s to 1920s by picnicking tourists who came to see where Lincoln first worked. And a fellow archaeologist Friday came across the base of a medicine bottle that Mazrim said might have contained essence of peppermint or British oil.

Mazrim said it's "amazing" that the artifacts - some possibly part of the store's inventory - weren't destroyed during the reconstruction of New Salem.

Schwartz thinks that his research, combined with the archaeologists' work, indicates that Lincoln was "more serious about the commercial enterprise and the commercial viability of this whole area."

"It shows him invested in the community in a way that the traditional story ignores," Schwartz said. "Obviously, he was much more active than just standing in the store, telling jokes and going bankrupt. This shows a lot of hard work."

Hedrick said those involved with New Salem always try to present "a true and accurate picture of what the village looked like and was about." When archaeologists do research at the historic site, the information gathered helps interpret Lincoln's connection to New Salem, he said.

"The task of figuring out Lincoln's involvement here is never-ending," Hedrick said. "Every time archaeologists solve an issue, it creates more questions about what the true story is."

"Now that we know that this was Lincoln's, we have to go back and relook at our whole understanding of Lincoln and New Salem," agreed Schwartz, adding that some people may examine the evidence and draw different conclusions. Overall, however, he thinks people will concur with the findings.

The archaeologists plan to wrap up their work by the end of May.

"What artifacts we don't keep for display at the site will go to the Illinois State Museum. They're the depository for all archaeological findings," Hedrick said.

He added that Mazrim's upcoming book, which covers archaeologists' 10 years of discoveries at New Salem, will be "a significant publication for (the historic site)."

"It will be used to help redesign the interpretive materials," Hedrick said.

"It's exciting," Schwartz added. "There is a lot here that has to be looked at and puzzled through, and the whole process of what it means will be ongoing. It's wonderful to see the outline here, the footprint."

Ann Gorman can be reached through the metro desk at 788-1519.

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New Salem descendants gather for first time

By ANN GORMAN
CORRESPONDENT

Published Sunday, July 09, 2006

PETERSBURG - Family members meeting for the first time Saturday at Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site greeted each other with hugs and handshakes, swapped stories and exchanged e-mail addresses, promising to stay in touch.

Pam Welch Williams of Springfield joined dozens of her relatives outside the Rutledge Tavern in the reconstructed log village.

"We have a lot of cousins here," she said.

Welch Williams was among hundreds of people, young and old, who attended the Reunion of Direct Descendants of the New Salem Community, part of a yearlong celebration of the 175th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's arrival at New Salem by flatboat in 1831.

Lincoln later returned to the tiny town to clerk at Denton Offutt's store. He stayed for nearly six years, working as a postmaster, storekeeper and deputy surveyor. He also served as a captain in the 31st Regiment of the Illinois Militia and was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives before moving to Springfield in 1837 to practice law.

Among those families who took part in the reunion were the Clarys, Herndons, Pantiers, Johnstons, Trents, Armstrongs, Gulihurs, Clarks, Fergusons and others. Some sported "Lincoln's Landing" commemorative T-shirts, and many brought extensive family records.

Welch Williams' family ties extend to James McGrady Rutledge, a nephew to James Rutledge - who laid out New Salem with John Camron in 1828 - and a cousin to Ann Rutledge, said to be Lincoln's sweetheart.

Jeanne Wunderle of Mason City believes the Lincoln-Rutledge love story is true.

"There's no doubt of its authenticity, based on oral and written (family history)," Wunderle said. "My great-grandfather Harve Rutledge knew first-hand what the family had experienced."

Doris Hamel of Walnut Creek, Calif., made "a big effort" to get her family to Saturday's event. Some came from Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota and Chicago.

"This means a great deal to me," she said, as the large group gathered on the porch of the rebuilt Second Berry-Lincoln Store.

Hamel's family descends from William "Slicky Bill" Greene and Bowling and Nancy Green, all friends of Lincoln. Greene also sold the building and goods to Lincoln and William Berry, whose first store had "winked out."

"I'm thinking not just about today, but about my children and grandchildren being able to someday tell their children about this special event," Hamel said.

Thad Hill of Houston said he'd been meaning for years to visit the pioneer home of his ancestors, Sam and Parthena Nance Hill.

"It's fun to reconnect," he said. "It's your family - it's where you came from. It's especially neat that all of this has been so well preserved."

Kelly Lukins of Falls Church, Va., last visited the historic site in 1978.

"It was time to come back," said the descendant of Jesse Lukins, brother of New Salem settler and Petersburg co-founder, Peter Lukins.

Event chairwoman Barb Archer and others spent the past year organizing the reunion activities, which included a barbecue and entertainment.

"I'm thrilled that so many people from all over the country came," Archer said, estimating that 500 descendants from 25 states attended.

Site manager David Hedrick noted that more than 100 volunteers offered to portray the villagers, dressing in period clothing and demonstrating chair caning, hearth cooking, distilling, quilting, broom making, blacksmithing, basket weaving and other chores, crafts and trades of the early 1800s.

"When they heard you were coming, they wanted to be here," Hedrick told the visitors.

Archaeologist Robert Mazrim, who conducted tours and recorded oral family histories, called it "a fascinating day."

"As we get further away (from the 1830s), we need to get what's left of these stories," Mazrim said, relating that he'd met the descendant of a slave who'd apparently worked for the Offutt family's plantation in Kentucky and had assumed the Offutt name.

"It was a real treat to meet him," Mazrim said.

Omer and Wanda Horton of Oswego trace their roots to the Hanks family, which included Nancy Hanks, Lincoln's mother.

Omer Horton, who camped in a tent at New Salem 41 years ago, considers it an honor to be connected to Lincoln.

"I hadn't really followed up on it, but in old age, I think it's time to start connecting," he said, noting that he'd recently visited the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

"It's definitely worth a return visit," Horton said. "I couldn't possibly grasp it all in one day."

Lynda Suisse-Smith of Kissimmee, Fla., who "can't get enough of Lincoln," said her lineage stretches back to his grandparents, making her a distant

cousin of Abe's.

"This is my favorite site," Suisse-Smith said of New Salem.

She's visited most Lincoln landmarks and is writing a book, "Of Rustic Eloquence," about Lincoln and the people he knew.

Historian Richard Taylor of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency explained how the village, which existed just over a decade, was reconstructed in the 1930s thanks to the perseverance of the Old Salem Chautauqua Association and the Lincoln League, with help from William Randolph Hearst and Civilian Conservation Corps.

New Salem, which sits on a bluff overlooking the Sangamon River, was designed "not as a museum of pioneer architecture," but as a town that "reflected the recollections of the former villagers," Taylor said.

The Bales were the last property owners in New Salem. Descendant Sharon Bale of Easton found Saturday's presentation "very meaningful."

"I didn't know what to expect. It was quite interesting, and it made you stop and think of what life was like back then," she said, adding that about 90 Bales would be gathering this weekend for a family reunion.

By day's end, Juanita Woelfle of Seattle and her daughter, Catherine Napolitano of Atlanta, Ga., were "exhausted, but having a fabulous time."

"It's been very emotional," said Woelfle, whose husband is a descendant of Dr. Francis Regnier.

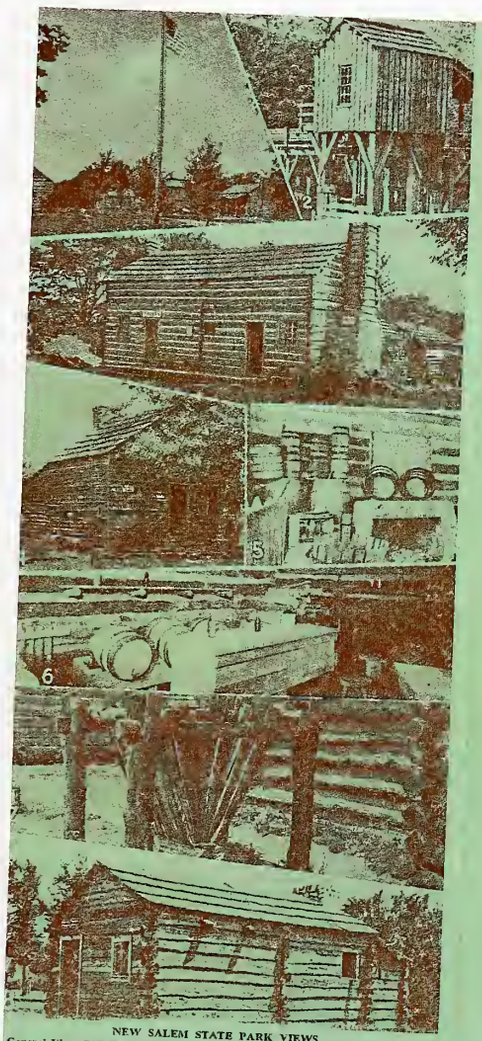
Hedrick encouraged the families to stay in touch with the New Salem Lincoln League.

"The site is about Abraham Lincoln, but each house represents a family," he said. "The story of New Salem will never be totally clear, but our job is to try to represent what is true and accurate. We want to hear your stories."

Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site, administered by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, is about two miles south of Petersburg and 20 miles northwest of Springfield on Illinois 97. It is open daily for free public tours.

Ann Gorman can be reached through the metro desk at 788-1519.

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NEW SALEM STATE PARK VIEWS

General View, Lincoln's New Salem.
The Saw and Grist Mill.
The Rutledge Tavern.
Berry-Lincoln Store.
Onstot's Cooper Shop.
(6) Clary's Grocery (Town Saloon).
(7) Ash Hopper in which Ashes were Leached for Lye used in Making Soap.
(8) First Berry-Lincoln Store, now U. S. Post Office.

Special Facilities & Services - -

Complete breakfast, luncheon, dinner and ala carte service in "The New Salem Room."

Private banquet rooms.

Conference rooms for group meetings available by advance reservations.

In the Gift Shop we have a complete line of ceramics, bisque, pottery, hand wrought copper, brass and iron for your shopping pleasure.

Guests arriving by rail in Petersburg will be furnished transportation to and from the Lodge. Greyhound Buses stop at the Lodge.

RATES

(RATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE)

Single, With Shower—$4.50; Without Shower—$4.00.

Double, With Shower—$7.50; Without Shower—$5.50.

Rooms Accomodating Four Persons—$8.00 to $12.00.

Twin-Bed Room, With Shower—$8.50.

Two Room Suites—$13.00 to $14.00 per day.

Dormitory Rooms (Cottages) Accommodating 8 persons per Room $2.50 per Person, per day. Minimum $12.50 per cottage per day. Extra Bed For One Person In Any Room $1.50.

Beverage & toast or roll served complimentary to all guests at the breakfast hour.

AMERICAN PLAN OPTIONAL

American Plan Rates (Meals Included) may be computed by adding $4.50 per person per day for complete breakfast @ $1.25, luncheon @ $1.75 and dinner service @ $2.25, in the New Salem Room. No charge will be made for lodging for children under six unless an additional bed is required. The food service for children under six is one half the adult rate.

Due to our serving a dinner at noon rather than a luncheon on Sundays and holidays those guests staying American Plan will be charged for the difference between the dinner and the luncheon.

Suggestions On Making Reservations - -

To insure accommodations, reservations should be made in advance. State number in party, children if any, ages, day and time of expected arrival and departure date. Please state type of accommodations desired and also alternate type in event what you choose is not available. We also suggest selection of an alternate date. Reservations will be held until 5 P.M. unless advised.

NEW SALEM LODGE OPEN THE YEAR 'ROUND

For Information or Reservations
Address Written Requests To:

IRA E. OWEN — NEW SALEM LODGE
P. O. BOX 59 — PETERSBURG, ILL.
Phone Petersburg 2-2440—Ask For Reservation Clerk

New Salem Lodge

ENTRANCE
NEW SALEM STATE PARK



PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS

IHA ILLINOIS HOTEL ASSOCIATION

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New Salem State Park is situated 17 miles northwest of Springfield and 2 miles south of Petersburg on State Routes 97 and 123

Air Conditioned Dining Rooms



Gift Shop

Lincoln Books

Souvenirs

NEW SALEM LODGE

Mr. & Mrs. Owen, operators of the New Salem state park concessions, including The Wagon Wheel Inn, since 1936 are now devoting their entire time to personally managing New Salem Lodge and the lodge dining facility, "The New Salem Room."

Being one of the most unusual dining rooms in the middle west it is an outstanding feature of New Salem Lodge. For your dining pleasure the New Salem Room has many features incorporated by the Owens who have been serving fine foods with distinctive service to New Salem visitors for seventeen years. As one enters The New Salem Room he is impressed by the unusual display of a wide variety of foods from which he may select his favorite steak, chops or seafood. Many take home and picnic items are also available. Shown to his choice table by a charming hostess the guest will view a beautifully landscaped area flanked by virgin timber that was seedlings in Lincolns day at New Salem. An efficient and courteous waitress fittingly attired will assist you in making this adventure in good eating one to be long remembered. Steaks, family style chicken dinners, delicious home baked sugar cured ham and sea foods are a few of the many house specialties.

Breakfast, luncheon, snacks from the fountain and complete dinner service may be had in The New Salem Room. Private dining rooms for clubs, parties, convention groups, receptions and meetings are available. Our newest feature is "The Early American Dinner" served from the "Covered Wagon."

New Salem Lodge is located at the entrance to New Salem State Park. It is completely encompassed by a heavily wooded area where by walking the trails, one may see raccoons, opossums, ground hogs, squirrels, foxes, chipmunks, muskrats, beaver and many other small, harmless animals. The guest will also be impressed by the natural setting of a large variety of trees. many rare birds and the hillsides carpeted with lovely wild flowers of many varieties. To complete this picturesque setting, Rocky Branch winds its way to the historic Sangamon River on which is located the old saw-and-grist mill where Abraham Lincoln became stranded on the mill dam in the flat boat on his way to New Orleans. It was this incident that caused Lincoln to return to New Salem, and which finally resulted in the restoration of the village.

The exterior of New Salem Lodge is unique in nearly every detail of construction. The Lodge, well over three hundred feet in length, is sided with random width rough-sawed oak boards which have been given a special treatment to preserve the newly sawed appearance. The entire lodge is fronted with an open veranda with a ceiling of rough sawed oak, exposed and supported with square oak posts pegged into the supporting members. The veranda is equipped with rustic lounge chairs in which the guest may rest and relax and have an unobstructed view of the beautiful entrance to New Salem State Park. The Lodge area is skirted with an authentic stake-and-rider rail fence of the type used in the 1830's during the existence of New Salem. Many of these rails are of walnut, having been preserved by local residents whose ancestors lived in or about New Salem. Directly along the long veranda are attractive plant life, shrubs, vines and flowers such as hollyhock, sun flowers, and morning glories. Many other varieties may be seen growing along the rail fence just as they may have grown when Lincoln lived and learned at New Salem.

While the Lodge may be rustic and rugged in character, the accommodations to be had here are of the best. Each guest room is equipped with attractive nutmeg maple furniture and comfortable innerspring mattresses to insure the guest a pleasant and refreshing night's rest. Rooms with double or twin beds may be had, and connecting or double rooms for four are also available. Guest rooms have private baths and thermostatically controlled heat in each room insures the guest the desired room temperature. Homespun drapes and bedspreads of a like material add much to the attractiveness of all guest rooms. Pictures depicting the early life of Lincoln and other well chosen appointments in every room add to your stay at New Salem Lodge. The guest rooms are all done in knotty pine with carpeted floors of an Early American design. Cribs for tiny tots are also available.

In addition to the regular guest rooms there are four cottages which will accommodate as many as eight persons to a cottage. These cottages are ideal for hiking groups, large families or Boy and Girl Scout groups desiring good accommodations at a lower cost.

When you enter the lounge of New Salem Lodge you will note that nothing has been spared to recreate the New Salem setting of over a century ago. The exposed ceiling of rough-sawed oak, random width oak boards used in the side-walls, huge native timbers mortised and pegged, hand wrought hardware on the huge native oak doors and a large fireplace faced with old fashioned sand brick, extend to you a feeling that here you have turned back the pages of history a hundred years or more. A beautiful floor of pegged oak, and antique lanterns hanging from wagon wheels and ox bows complete this unusual Lodge of Lincoln's time. Here, too, the traveler may rest and relax. Games such as checkers, chess or cards may be played and, if you like, you may pop corn in the old fashioned way—in the fireplace.

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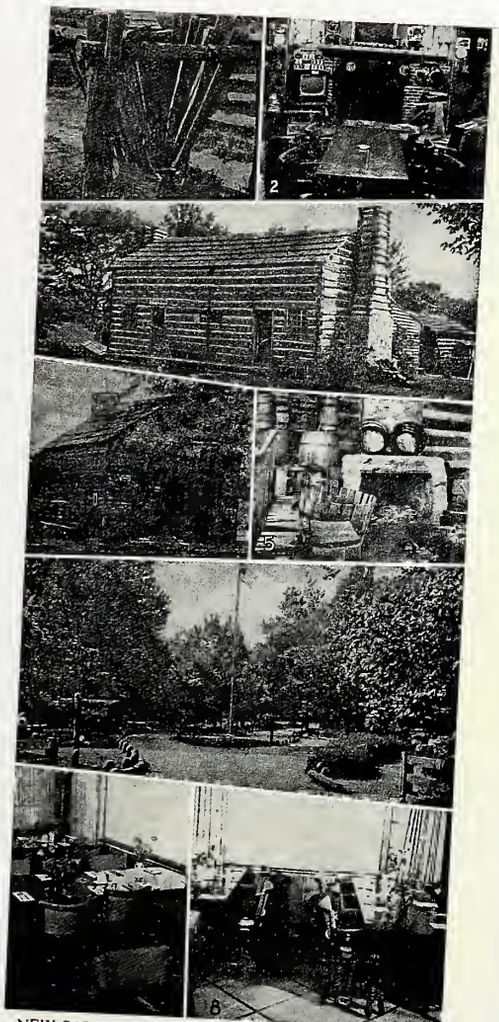
THINGS TO DO WHILE AT NEW SALEM LODGE - - -

Things for the guest to do are many while spending just a day or several at this historic spot. One may spend hours or days in the reconstructed village of New Salem, where over twenty residences and shops have been authentically refurnished by the New Salem Lincoln League of nearby Petersburg. Robert Sherwoods drama, "Abe Lincoln in Illinois" is presented during the summer season by the Abe Lincoln Players of Springfield, Illinois. There are daily tours with well informed guides furnished at no cost to the visitor, by The Division of Parks and Memorials, State of Illinois. Carefully marked trails have been cut through the wooded area for the visitor's enjoyment. Large picnic facilities are available. The grave of Ann Rutledge in nearby Petersburg also attracts many visitors.

In Petersburg, county seat of Menard County, you will find many well stocked shops, markets, theatre, garages, service stations, public library, and churches of various denominations. Sports such as fishing and hunting may be enjoyed in nearby areas. Fishing tackle, bait and licenses may be obtained at the Lodge.

Springfield, capital of Illinois, just seventeen miles from New Salem Lodge, offers the visitor many diversions. The only home Lincoln ever owned is open daily to visitors and, in Oakridge Cemetery, one may visit the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln. It is also from New Salem State Park that many Boy Scouts start the hike to Springfield over the original Lincoln Trail to earn certain merit awards. Dickson Mounds State Park offers an excellent side trip from New Salem Lodge. At this park, one may see unearthed burial mounds of a people that inhabited central Illinois centuries ago.

All the world is grateful to the Division of Parks and Memorials, Department of Conservation of the State of Illinois, for the masterful work done in recreating New Salem, greatest of all Lincoln shrines.



NEW SALEM LODGE AND STATE PARK VIEWS

) Ash Hopper in which Ashes were Leached for Lye used in Making Soap.
) Interior of Lounge at the Lodge.
) The Rutledge Tavern
) Berry-Lincoln Store.
(5) Onstot's Cooper Shop.
(6) Main Entrance to New Salem State Park.
(7) New Salem Dining Room at The Lodge.
(8) New Salem Dining Room at The Lodge.

Special Facilities & Services - -

Complete breakfast, luncheon, dinner and a la carte service in "The New Salem Room."

Private banquet rooms.

Conference rooms for group meetings available by advance reservations.

In the Gift Shop we have a complete line of ceramics, bisque, pottery, hand wrought copper, brass and iron for your shopping pleasure.

RATES

(RATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE)

Single, With Shower—$5.50, Without Sbower—$5.00.

Double, With Shower—$8.00, Without Shower—$7.00.

Rooms Accommodating Four Persons—$10.00 to $15.00.

Twin-Bed Room, With Shower—$9.00.

Two Room Suites—$14.00 to $15.00 per day.

Dormitory Rooms (Cottages) Accommodating 8 persons per Room $2.75 per Person, per day. Minimum $12.50 per cottage, per day. Extra Bed For One Person In Any Room $1.50.

Beverage & toast or roll served complimentary to all guests at the breakfast hour.

AMERICAN PLAN OPTIONAL

American Plan Rates (Meals Included) may be computed by adding $5.00 per person per day for complete breakfast, luncheon and dinner service in tbe New Salem Room. No charge will be made for lodging for children under six unless an additional bed is required. The food service for children under six is one half the adult a la carte rate.

Due to our serving a dinner at noon rather than a luncheon on Sundays and bolidays those guests staying American Plan will be charged for the difference between the dinner and the luncheon.

Suggestions On Making Reservations - -

To insure accommodations, reservations should be made in advance. State number in party, children if any, ages, day and time of expected arrival and departure date. Please state type of accommodations desired and also alternate type in event what you cboose is not available. We also suggest selection of an alternate date. Reservations will not be held unless confirmed witb a deposit.

A 50 percent deposit required with reservations. Deposits will not be refunded unless notice of cancellation is received in our office 48 hours before reservation date.

NEW SALEM LODGE OPEN MAR. 15 to NOV. 15

For Information or Reservations
Address Written Requests To:
IRA E. OWEN — NEW SALEM LODGE
P. O. BOX 59 — PETERSBURG, ILL.
Phone Petersburg 2-2440 — Ask For Reservation Clerk

New Salem Lodge

ENTRANCE—NEW SALEM STATE PARK
PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS



LOOK FOR THE RAIL FENCE

EVERY ROOM — AIR CONDITIONED

GENUINE ANTIQUES are AVAILABLE.
Information may be obtained at the New Salem Lodge Office

New Salem State Park is situated 17 miles northwest of Springfield and 2 miles soutb of Petersburg on State Routes 97 and 123

AIR CONDITIONED THROUGHOUT

Mr. & Mrs. Owen, operators of the New Salem state park concessions, including The Wagon Wheel Inn, from 1936 to 1953 are now devoting their entire time to personally managing New Salem Lodge and the lodge dining facility, "The New Salem Room."

NEW SALEM DINING ROOM

Being one of the most unusual dining rooms in the middle west it is an outstanding feature of New Salem Lodge. For your dining pleasure the New Salem Room has many features incorporated by the Owens who have been serving fine foods with distinctive service to New Salem visitors for nearly 25 years. As one enters The New Salem Room he is impressed by the unusual display of a fine variety of foods from which he may select his favorite steak, chops or seafood. Many take home and picnic items are also available. Shown to his choice table by a charming hostess the guest will view a beautifully landscaped area flanked by virgin timber that was seedlings in Lincoln's day at New Salem. An efficient and courteous waitress fittingly attired will assist you in making this adventure in good eating one to be long remembered. Steaks, family style chicken dinners, delicious home baked sugar cured ham and sea foods are a few of the many specialties.

Breakfast, luncheon, snacks from the fountain and complete dinner service may be had in The New Salem Room. Private dining rooms for clubs, parties, convention groups, receptions and meetings are available. Our newest feature is "The Early American Dinner" served from the "Covered Wagon."

New Salem Lodge is located at the entrance to New Salem State Park. It is completely encompassed by a heavily wooded area where by walking the trails, one may see raccoons, opossums, ground hogs, squirrels, foxes, chipmunks, muskrats, beaver and many other small, harmless animals. The guest will also be impressed by a natural setting of a large variety of trees, many rare birds and the hillsides carpeted with lovely wild flowers of many varieties. To complete this picturesque setting, Rocky Branch winds its way to the historic Sangamon River on which is located the old saw-and-grist mill where Abraham Lincoln became stranded on the mill dam in the flat boat on his way to New Orleans. It was this incident that caused Lincoln to return to New Salem, and which finally resulted in the restoration of the village.

The exterior of New Salem Lodge is unique in nearly every detail in construction. The Lodge, well over three hundred feet in length, is sided with random width rough-sawed oak boards which have been given a special treatment to preserve the newly sawed appearance. The entire lodge is fronted with an open veranda with a ceiling of rough sawed oak, exposed and supported with square oak posts pegged into the supporting members. The veranda is equipped with rustic lounge chairs in which the guest may rest and relax and have an unobstructed view of the beautiful entrance to New Salem State Park. The Lodge area is skirted with an authentic stake-and-rider rail fence of the type used in the 1830's during the existence of New Salem. Many of these rails are of walnut, having been preserved by local residents whose ancestors lived in or about New Salem. Directly along the long veranda are attractive plant life, sbrubs, vines and flowers such as hollyhock, sun flowers, and morning glories. Many other varieties may be seen growing along the rail fence just as they may have grown when Lincoln lived and learned at New Salem.



NEW SALEM LODGE

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR GUESTS

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Typical Guest Room at New Salem Lodge



Gift Shop - Lincoln Books - Souvenirs

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NEW SALEM LODGE

was established by Mr. and Mrs. Ira E. Owen, who have been operating for over forty years. It is located 2½ miles from Petersburg (17 miles northwest of Springfield, Illinois), at the entrance to New Salem State Park, the famous historic shrine in the Land of Lincoln. The rambling structure with its random-width oak board siding and ample porches supported by square oak posts seems to turn back the pages of history a hundred years and more, notwithstanding the thoroughly modern comforts which distinguish the Lodge. The large lounge and the dining room with their rough oak boards, huge native timbers and hand-wrought hardware add to the impression of rustic simplicity, but they offer all the amenities of modern living, including air-conditioning. The guest rooms have knotty-pine interiors and are equipped with attractive nutmeg maple furniture, homespun drapes and bedspreads, wall-to-wall carpets and individual thermostatically controlled heat. The Lodge blends harmoniously into the surrounding country-side of heavily wooded hills. An authentic stake-and-rider rail fence like those used in the 1830's skirts the Lodge area; along it and the spacious verandas grow hollyhock, sunflowers, morning-glories and a variety of vines and shrubs. The dense woods are traversed by hiking trails, from which patches of wildflowers and small animals such as squirrels, chipmunks, raccoons, opossums, beavers and others may be seen.

HOTEL FACILITIES

18 Bedrooms (all air-conditioned, 15 with Shower Bath), 9 Cottages (with Tub and Shower or Shower); New Salem Dining Room and two Private Dining Rooms (all air-conditioned); Snack Shop and Self-Service Drive-In; Heated Outdoor Swimming Pool (at no charge for Lodge guests); Television in each guest room, free of charge; Gift Shop carrying souvenirs and books relating to the life of Lincoln; ample free Parking Space adjacent to guest rooms.

MEAL SERVICE

The New Salem Dining Room offers both fine table d'hote and a-la-carte service at very moderate prices: Breakfast $.95 up, Luncheon $1.50 up, Dinner $2.65 up. Special menus for children up to twelve years. Family-style chicken dinners, home-baked sugar-cured hams, choice steaks, beef cart service and sea food are some of the specialties offered; crisp salads, homemade bread, rolls, desserts and pastries add to the enjoyment of the New Salem Lodge meals. Fountain snacks are available at the Snack Shop.

RATE SCHEDULE, LODGE ROOMS — EUROPEAN PLAN

One Person	Two Persons One Bed	Two Persons Two Beds
$8.24-$10.30	$10.30-$12.36	$14.42-$16.48

RATE SCHEDULE, COTTAGE ROOMS — EUROPEAN PLAN

Two Persons	Four Persons	Five, Six or Seven Persons
$14.42-$16.48	$16.48-$20.60	$3.09 per person over four

Deposit of 50% on all reservations. NO REFUNDS UNLESS REQUESTED 48 HOURS BEFORE RESERVATION DATE.
Half Day rates charged for early checkouts when permitted.

RATES — AMERICAN PLAN

For American Plan rates (meals included), add $7.50 per person per day for complete breakfast, luncheon and dinner to the above European Plan rates; for children under six, one half of the adult fare.

3% Hotel Occupancy Tax added to room prices and 5% State Sales Tax to meal prices. Rates subject to change without notice.

OWEN'S

New Salem Lodge

AT THE ENTRANCE TO NEW SALEM STATE PARK

in the Heart of the Lincoln Country

P. O. Box 57, Petersburg, Illinois 62675
Telephone: (217) 632-2440

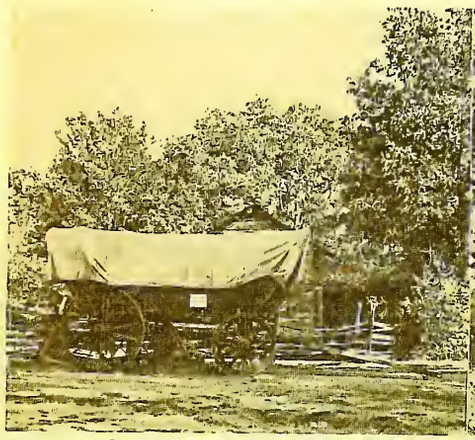
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Conestoga Wagon at New Salem State Park



New Salem Lodge from the Highway

Presented by:

Mr. & Mrs. Ira E. Owen

Open Mid-March to Mid-November

AIR-CONDITIONED THROUGHOUT
HEATED OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOL







The old Grist and Saw Mill *Interior of a Log Cabin at New Salem State Park (H. Georg Studio)*



Miller-Kelso Cabin and Blacksmith Shop at New Salem (H. Georg Studio)

POLICIES OF NEW SALEM LODGE

Check out hour is 1 P.M.

Please return key to front office when checking out.

Ice available for room at snack bar.

Please do not leave pets in room unattended OR THEY WILL BE RELEASED.

Dining Room open from 7 A.M. till 7:30 P.M.

Gift Shop open from 7 A.M. till 9:30 P.M.

Pool open from 8 A.M. till 5 P.M. and 6 P.M. till 9 P.M. Swimming suits are NOT permitted in Dining Room or Gift Shop.

CANCELLATIONS MUST BE MADE 48 HOURS prior to reservation date otherwise, positively no refunds will be made.

Half day rate "May" be extended if sufficient space is available.

Items left in rooms will be kept 30 days. They will be returned to owner at a nominal packing charge plus postage, insurance and C.D.D. charges.

Breakage and damage to furnishings beyond normal wear and tear will be charged to guest.

RESERVATIONS

are advisable, especially during the vacation season. They should be directed to the Manager, New Salem Lodge, P. O. Box 57, Petersburg, Illinois 62675, giving all necessary details (number in party, children and their ages, day and approximate time of arrival, departure date, type of desired accommodations). A 50% deposit is required, which will be refunded in case of cancellation if notice is received by the manager's office 48 hours prior to the scheduled arrival.

FACILITIES FOR PRIVATE PARTIES, CONFERENCES AND GROUP MEETINGS

New Salem Lodge is well equipped to accommodate private parties and moderately-sized group meetings. There are two private dining rooms with a capacity of 55 and 30 and three conference rooms with a capacity of 50, 30 and 25.

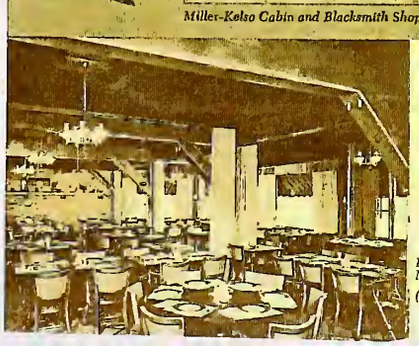
WHAT TO SEE AND DO

The main attraction of the area is New Salem State Park with its reconstructed village of New Salem, where over twenty residences and shops have been rebuilt and authentically furnished in the style of Abraham Lincoln's days. The settlement, situated on a hundred-feet-high hill, overlooks the Sangamon River valley, where the old grist and saw mill which led to the establishment of the village in 1828 has also been reconstructed. The six years Lincoln spent at New Salem (1831-37) almost encompass the town's brief history, for it declined rapidly after 1839. However, its spirit lives on in the faithful re-creation, which keeps inspiring visitors with its many memories of America's great president and his time.

The Park is open daily, the year 'round. Daily tours through the village conducted by well-informed guides are available free of charge. In late August and early September, Robert Sherwood's drama "Abe Lincoln in Illinois" is presented at the Park by the Lincoln Players of Springfield, Illinois.

In nearby Petersburg, the grave of Ann Rutledge attracts many visitors. In Springfield, capital of Illinois, the only home Lincoln ever owned may be visited, and also his tomb in Oakridge Cemetery. Many boy scouts take the 21-mile hike from New Salem over the original Lincoln Trail to Springfield to earn certain merit awards.

Dickson Mounds State Memorial with its excavated pre-historic burial mounds offers an interesting side trip from New Salem Lodge (38 miles over State Highway 97).



Dining Room at New Salem Lodge (H. Georg Studio)



How to get to New Salem Lodge and State Park

Lodge and Park are located on Illinois State Highway 97, which branches off State Highway 125 leading northwest from Springfield, Illinois (17 miles). Springfield is conveniently reached over the excellent U. S. Highway 66 from Chicago (193 miles) and St. Louis (101 miles). Motorists coming from Chicago can also take the short-cut from Williamsville via Athens to New Salem.

The Gulf, Mobile & Ohio Railroad and the Illinois Central Railroad, which connect Chicago and St. Louis with Springfield, occasionally offer special excursion tours to the Land of Lincoln including New Salem.



Fred Harvey



New Salem Lodge

At the Entrance to New Salem State Park
PETERSBERG, ILLINOIS

Evening Dinner Suggestions

Served only
to children under 12



No. 1

HOME BAKED HAM

Potatoes
Buttered Vegetable
Bread Butter
Beverage
Chocolate Sundae
1.80

No. 2

FRIED SPRING CHICKEN

(Leg and Thigh)
Potatoes
Buttered Vegetable
Bread Butter
Beverage
Fruit Jello
1.90



No. 3

POTATOES WITH GRAVY

Buttered Vegetable
Bread Butter
Beverage
Homemade Cookies
.85

No. 4

FILLET OF WHITE FISH

Potatoes
Buttered Vegetable
Bread Butter
Beverage
Neapolitan Ice Cream
1.50

Choice of APPETIZER or SALAD
Served with any of the above Dinners

Children Must Remain Seated Unless Accompanied by an Adult.

250 3-64